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FBIS-EAS-95-209 CONTENTS *30 October 1995*

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NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

'Source': Mondale Not Told of Alleged Spying *[SANKEI SHIMBUN 30 Oct]* 1
Tokyo To Watch U.S. Moves on Alleged Spy Case *[KYODO]* 1
Ex-U.S. Official on CIA's Economic Espionage *[SANKEI SHIMBUN 28 Oct]* 1
Murayama on Security Ties With U.S., Base Issue *[KYODO]* 2
Murayama, Kono on Asian Security, U.S. Ties *[ASAHI SHIMBUN 27 Oct]* 3
Coalition Group Meets Governor Ota on U.S. Bases *[KYODO]* 3
Authorized Use of Okinawa Bases To Expire Mar 96 *[RYUKYU SHIMPO 29 Oct]* 4
Okinawa Considers Making Petition to Ministry *[RYUKYU SHIMPO 28 Oct]* 5
Analyst Examines Missions of U.S. Forces *[AERA 30 Oct]* 5
MOT: United's Route Violates Aviation Accord *[NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN 27 Oct]* 8
'High-Level Meeting' With EU Scheduled 6-7 Nov *[KYODO]* 8
Envoy Says France To Cut Nuclear Test to 6 *[KYODO]* 8
U.S., Australia Easing Farm Exclusion Stance *[SANKEI SHIMBUN 26 Oct]* 9
APEC Draft Urges Two-Stage Liberalization *[KYODO]* 9
Ministry Denies Mahathir To Miss Osaka APEC *[KYODO]* 10
Envoy Sent To Dissuade Li's APEC Attendance *[KYODO]* 10
Tokyo Changes Policy Toward Talks With Pyongyang *[NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN 29 Oct]* 10
Mobile Phone Firms' FY95 Spending Escalating *[KYODO]* 11
FTC Seeks Deregulation Before NTT Breakup *[KYODO]* 11
FTC Creates Guidelines for Antimonopoly Laws *[KYODO]* 12
'News Focus' Views Rice Market Issues *[KYODO]* 12
Defense Agency Proposes SDF Reduction Plan *[Tokyo TV]* 13
Ministry Urges Protection of Defense Industry *[ASAHI SHIMBUN 28 Oct]* 13
Kubo: Sakigake Not Prerequisite for New Party *[KYODO]* 14
Radioactive Waste Found Leaking at Tokaimura *[Tokyo TV]* 14

North Korea

'Belligerent' Ties With U.S. Nullify Armistice *[KCNA]* 14
U.S. Business Group Visits Najin-Sonbong Area *[KCNA]* 15
'Peace Committee' Denounces 'Foal Eagle 95' *[KCNA]* 15
Daily Commentary Denounces 'Foal Eagle' Exercise *[Pyongyang Radio]* 16
ROK-U.S.-Japan Military Alliance Denounced *[KCNA]* 16
Commentary Says Infiltration Cases Fabricated *[Pyongyang Radio]* 17
Kim Yong-sam Accused of Reunification Obstacle *[KCNA]* 19
'Longest-Term' Prisoner Ceremony Held in ROK *[KCNA]* 20
Daily Criticizes 'Hwarang War Gamble' Exercises *[KCNA]* 20
Sihanouk 'Strongly Opposed' to ROK Relations *[KCNA]* 20
Japan's 'Outline of New Defence Program' Viewed *[KCNA]* 20
Spokesman on Resumption of Talks With Japan *[KCNA]* 21
Kim Chong-il Sends Wreath to Grave of Mao's Son *[KCNA]* 21
Yi Chong-ok Meets With PRC Artistes Group *[KCNA]* 22
PRC Embassy, Delegation Lay Wreaths at Tower *[KCNA]* 22

Remains of British Soldier Unearthed, Delivered *[KCNA]* 22
Ponghwa Bureau Achieves Export 'Innovations' *[Pyongyang Radio]* 22
Kim Chong-il Thanks 'Model Lecturers' at Units *[KCNA]* 23
Kim Il-song's 'Exploit' in Building WPK Noted *[KCNA]* 23
More Reports on Farms Accelerating Threshing *[Pyongyang Radio, etc.]* 24

South Korea

DPRK Warned of Further International Isolation *[THE KOREA TIMES 28 Oct]* 25
'Partial Conclusion' of Reactor Pact Viewed *[HANGUK ILBO 30 Oct]* 25
DPRK Forward Deploys 40 Warplanes Near DMZ *[CHOSON ILBO 30 Oct]* 26
North Officials 'Secretly' Contact Japan for Aid *[Seoul Radio]* 26
Japan Reverses North Normalization Talks Policy *[YONHAP]* 26
North Envoy to PRC on 'Constant Friendly' Ties *[Seoul Radio]* 27
Deep Regret Expressed Over French Nuclear Test *[YONHAP]* 27
President Kim Yong-sam Returns to Seoul 28 Oct *[Seoul Radio]* 27
No Tae-u's Statement Apologizes for Secret Fund *[THE KOREA TIMES 28 Oct]* 27
NCNP Demands President Discuss Money From No *[YONHAP]* 28
Prosecution Decides To Confiscate No's Fund *[YONHAP]* 29
Kim Chong-pil Declines Comment on Secret Fund *[YONHAP]* 29
Government Considers Probing No's Funds Abroad *[YONHAP]* 29
Prosecution Decides To Question Hanbo Chairman *[YONHAP]* 29
Cardinal Urges 'Thorough Probe' Into No's Fund *[YONHAP]* 30
Assemblyman: No Accepted Money for Golf Permits *[YONHAP]* 30
President on Possible Legal Action Against No *[YONHAP]* 30
No Tae-u Submits Documents on Secret Slush Fund *[YONHAP]* 31
DLP Not To Make Public 1992 Campaign Finances *[YONHAP]* 31
Opposition Leaders To Skip President's Meeting *[YONHAP]* 31

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

Khin Nyunt on 'Unruly' Western Democratic Styles *[Rangoon Radio]* 33
SLORC Chairman Receives Laotian Minister *[Rangoon Radio]* 33
Than Shwe Receives SRV Minister, Delegation *[Rangoon Radio]* 33
NCGUB Responds to General Maung Aye's Speech *[BurmaNet News]* 33
'Tentative' Cease-Fire With Khun Sa Reported *[BANGKOK POST 27 Oct]* 34
'Popular' Party Said Luring Public Servants *[Rangoon Radio]* 35
Authorities Release 30 From Moulmein Jail *[Rangoon Radio]* 36

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge: Ranariddh's UN Speech Misleading *[Radio PGNUNS]* 36
Government Approves Part of Sihanoukville Project *[THE CAMBODIA TIMES 28 Oct]* 37
Sirivut Says Ranariddh No Challenge at Congress *[THE CAMBODIA TIMES 28 Oct]* 37
Army Television Broadcast Slated To Begin 1 Nov *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 38
Kandal Vietnamese Settlers Sent to Provinces *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 38

Indonesia

U.S. 'Seriously' Interested in Suharto Visit *[Jakarta Radio]* 38
Suharto-Clinton Trade Liberalization Talks Viewed *[SUARA KARYA 30 Oct]* 38
Consulate in Vanimo Attacked by OPM Members *[ANTARA]* 39
Consulate Staff Ordered To Leave Vanimo *[Melbourne International]* 40

Alatas Confirms Attack on Consulate in Vanimo *[ANTARA]* 40
Soldiers Arrested Over Deaths in Irian Jaya *[Melbourne Radio]* 41

Laos

Diplomatic Relations Established With ROK *[KPL]* 41
Accord on Unexploded Ordnance Removal Signed *[KPL]* 41
KOSANG PHAK Magazine Marks Anniversary *[KPL]* 42

Philippines

Ramos Urges 'More Caring', 'Pro-Active' UN *[BUSINESS WORLD 26 Oct]* 42

Thailand

Banhan: Nation Not Afraid of Threat of Sanctions *[THE SUNDAY POST 29 Oct]* 44
Thaksin Meeting With Baker, U.S. Envoy Reported *[NAEO NA 28 Oct, etc.]* 44
  Thaksin, Baker Discuss Drug Money *[Bangkok TV]* 45
Ministers React to U.S. Drug List Issue *[MATICHON 27 Oct]* 46
Thanat Offers U.S. Exit for Dropping Allegation *[THE SUNDAY POST 29 Oct]* 46
Banhan Returns, Reports Results of U.S. Trip *[Bangkok Radio]* 47
Official Views Effects of Money Laundering Bill *[THE NATION 28 Oct]* 48
Banhan, Others on Cabinet Reshuffle Probability *[BANGKOK POST 28 Oct]* 49
  Banhan: Not for 'Time Being' *[THE SUNDAY POST 29 Oct]* 50
Democrat Party Differs With Military Top Brass *[MATICHON SUT SAPDA 26 Oct]* 51
'Biggest' Labor Unions Agree To Merge *[BANGKOK POST 30 Oct]* 52
Central Bank Foresees Soft Landing for Economy *[THE NATION 30 Oct]* 53

Vietnam

Minister on NAM Summit, Trade With U.S. *[Hanoi International]* 54
'Regrets' Expressed Over French Nuclear Test *[AFP]* 55
Do Muoi Receives Japanese Journalists *[VNA]* 55
National Assembly Issues Communique No. 21 *[Hanoi Radio]* 55
National Assembly 27 Oct Proceedings Reported *[Hanoi Radio]* 56

AUSTRALASIA

South Pacific Nations Condemn French Test *[Melbourne International]* 58

Australia

Keating, Politicians Condemn French Nuclear Test *[AFP]* 58
  French Envoy: Reaction 'Extreme' *[Melbourne International]* 59
McMullan Blames Paris for Ban on French Flights *[Melbourne International]* 59

French Polynesia

Activists in Tahiti Protest French Nuclear Test *[AFP]* 59

New Zealand

Bolger: Third French Test Affront to Nations *[AFP]* 60

Japan

'Source': Mondale Not Told of Alleged Spying

OW3010053395 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN in Japanese 30 Oct 95 Morning Edition p 5

[By Tsutomu Saito]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 29 Oct — The U.S. Government said recently it will not inform Japan of the details of the alleged wiretapping by The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency [CIA] during Japan-U.S. auto talks. However, a CIA-related source said on 29 October that it is certain that Ambassador to Japan Mondale and senior officials of the U.S. Embassy in Japan were not told in advance of the CIA's secret work on the auto sector negotiations.

Commenting on the closed nature of the CIA, a source who served as ambassador and recently retired from the U.S. State Department, in an article in WASHINGTON POST, openly criticized the CIA, saying "the government should place the CIA under the supervision of ambassadors." For that reason, the issue of CIA operations is likely to come into question at U.S. embassies.

According the source, there are about 60 CIA members in Tokyo, including disguised NOC [non-official cover] members who do not have special diplomatic privileges. From the Cold-War era, the CIA abroad has a communication link directly to CIA headquarters in the United States, and under the instructions of the President, diplomats and ambassadors are not allowed to check the details of communications and orders from headquarters, the source said.

The source said that there is no doubt that Ambassador Mondale and senior officials of the embassy were not told in advance of the, nor any details, of the CIA's alleged spying during the auto talks.

Recently retired Mr. David H. Swartz, who served as the first U.S. Ambassador to Belarus, part of the former Soviet Union, said in the WASHINGTON POST that this kind of special treatment has been given to the CIA in diplomatic and consular offices in foreign nations since the Kennedy administration in the early 1960's. In the same vein, President Clinton in September 1994 sent instructions to ambassadors in foreign nations implying that "even ambassadors are not allowed to look at the CIA's communication data."

Such secretive activities by the CIA have caused friction in U.S. diplomatic offices between CIA members and ordinary diplomats, and there is always the danger of impairing a relationship of trust with the host countries.

To eliminate this possibility, Mr. Swartz proposed: 1) The authority of an ambassador, as the personal representative of the President, should be clearly specified, and the ambassador should be responsible supervising all aspects of U.S. activities, including data of communication with Washington; and 2) all "secret operations" such as contacts with informers and the payment of rewards, should be approved in writing by the ambassador.

Tokyo To Watch U.S. Moves on Alleged Spy Case

OW3010103195 Tokyo KYODO in English 1006 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 30 KYODO — Japan will pay close attention to U.S. moves following Washington's refusal to comment on reports of economic espionage by the Central Intelligence Agency during bilateral trade talks earlier this year, Vice Foreign Minister Sadayuki Hayashi said Monday [30 October].

Japan will not, for the time being, take any further actions, he told a press conference.

Tokyo will watch closely how the United States responds to Japanese calls to clear the Japanese public's suspicion of the U.S., which has heightened since the alleged spying by the CIA was first reported earlier this month.

Tokyo has already made clear its stance on the matter, Hayashi said.

Japanese Ambassador to the U.S. Takakazu Kuriyama told Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord last week that Washington's failure to clearly deny the reported spying is disappointing and that such activities could harm bilateral ties.

Kuriyama urged Washington to clear the Japanese people's doubts about the trustworthiness of the U.S.

Lord was quoted as saying the U.S. has a policy of not making comments about its intelligence service activities.

THE NEW YORK TIMES and NBC TV reported separately earlier this month that the CIA spied on Japan during bilateral trade negotiations on autos and auto parts earlier this year.

Ex-U.S. Official on CIA's Economic Espionage

OW3010044795 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN in Japanese 28 Oct 95 Evening Edition p 2

[By Yoshikazu Komori]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 27 Oct — A former U.S. Government official revealed on 27 October that undercover economic intelligence operations by the U.S.

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in Japan started with espionage on activities of Japanese general trading firms during the first oil shock in 1973.

In the aftermath of press reports that the CIA and other U.S. intelligence agencies eavesdropped on Japanese officials' overseas calls during the Japan-U.S. automobile negotiations, Ronald Morse, currently chief of the International Planning Division of Maryland University but formerly in charge of policy toward Japan in various U.S. government offices for many years, told SANKEI SHIMBUN on 27 October: "It is wrong to say that economic espionage on Japan by U.S. Government intelligence agencies started only after the end of the Cold War."

He went on to reveal the history of economic intelligence activities.

According to Morse, full-fledged operations by the CIA and the NSA (National Security Agency) to secretly gather economic information in Japan started during the first oil shock in 1973. It began with the urgent need to clarify the flow of the enormous amount of money going to the oil-producing Arab countries as the price of oil skyrocketed. The rapid increase in oil money was bringing critical changes to the global economic and financial balance. Such funds even went to potential enemies of the United States, and had the potential to affect U.S. national security. Strategic considerations dictated the urgent need to follow the flow of these funds closely.

According to Morse, the easiest source of such information would have been U.S. oil companies, but U.S. laws at that time prohibited the wiretapping and eavesdropping on U.S. organizations. Big Japanese companies, particularly the general trading firms which had such information, were therefore selected as targets.

Japanese trading firms, through their activities in the Middle East and other parts of the world, collected an impressive amount of economic information that was not limited only to petroleum. Their telephones, telex and other international communications were also open and unprotected by anti-wiretapping measures. They were, therefore, chosen as targets of economic espionage.

According to Morse, CIA collection of economic information on Japan has been continued sporadically since then whenever necessary. Only people ignorant of this would be surprised by the reports of economic espionage.

Regarding the recent reports, Morse speculates: "This was an intentional leak by CIA. It was probably meant to show that more agents are needed to gather information on Japan."

Morse worked with offices dealing with Japan under the Departments of Defense, State and Energy from 1973 to 1978.

Murayama on Security Ties With U.S., Base Issue

OW2910021395 Tokyo KYODO in English
0201 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 29 KYODO — Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama expressed his support for the Japan-U.S. Security arrangement Sunday [29 October] but added he intends to look into the issues surrounding the stationing of U.S. troops in Japan.

"With an eye on resolving the problems, we will seriously take up the issues of U.S. troops stationed in Japan beginning with the problems of the U.S. military facilities in Okinawa," Murayama said during the annual review of the self-defense forces (SDF) at the ground SDF training ground in Asaka, Saitama prefecture, near Tokyo.

The review of the 4,200 troops from the three branches of the SDF comes as controversy continues to envelope the questions of the forced leasing of land to the U.S. military in the southwestern island prefecture of Okinawa and crimes committed by U.S. troops in Japan.

The controversy was ignited by the abduction and rape of an Okinawa schoolgirl in September purportedly by three U.S. servicemen there.

Addressing the troops for a second straight year, Murayama also criticized the nuclear weapons tests of China and France as "extremely regrettable" and said he hopes the outline of a new defense plan can be concluded in November.

The prime minister said that following the Cold War, the military situation around Japan is unstable, with tensions on the Korean peninsula and the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

The Philippines, Vietnam, China, Taiwan, Brunei and Malaysia all claim the Spratlys in part or as a whole.

He also said the issue of Japan's claim to a handful of Russian-held islands off the northern island of Hokkaido remains unresolved, and mentioned the current military buildup and modernization being carried out by China and the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Murayama lauded the efforts of the SDF for its work following January's great Hanshin earthquake and the sarin nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway system in March.

"The SDF is now widely recognized for its presence in protecting the lives and property of the Japanese people," Murayama said.

Murayama stressed Japan's plans to contribute to UN Peacekeeping operations with the scheduled dispatch of SDF troops to the UN Effort in the Golan Heights in the Middle East.

Sunday's review of the ground, maritime and air SDF was the 43rd inspection of the troops and military hardware.

Murayama, Kono on Asian Security, U.S. Ties

OW2910103895 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 27 Oct 95 Evening Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Yohei Kono attended a session of intensive deliberations of the upper house budget committee held on 27 October. Based on the precondition that the significance of the Japan-U. S. security arrangement has remained unchanged in the post-Cold War era, Kono said: "From the standpoint of Japan's security and in consideration of Japan-U.S. relations and the future of Asian nations, there is an extremely important question as to how China should be taken into account." His remarks revealed that in preparing to "redefine" the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty at the summit talks scheduled for 20 November, Japan and the United States must have considered that China's significance has rapidly increased. This is the first time an official in charge of diplomatic affairs has formally commented on the relationship between the redefinition and China.

Foreign Minister Kono made these remarks in reply to a question by upper house member Tomoharu Yoda (of the Liberal Democratic Party). Kono also stated: "It is undeniable that developing and maintaining good relations among the three countries — Japan, the United States, and China — depend on stability, peace, and prosperity in Asia. Considering this fact, the Japan-U.S. relationship is of great importance, and the United States also fully understands its significance."

In reply to a question by upper house member Shinya Izumi (of the New Frontier Party) at the same session, Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said: "We are not in a position to form a collective regional security system for all of Asia. Therefore, the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty plays an important role in ensuring peace and stability in the Far East and the entire Asian region." In this way, he emphasized that the significance of Japan-U.S. security arrangements remains unchanged in the post-Cold War era.

Coalition Group Meets Governor Ota on U.S. Bases

OW3010124495 Tokyo KYODO in English 1210 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, Oct. 30 KYODO — A ruling coalition mission met with Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota on Monday [30 October] in a bid to break the impasse over his refusal to sign documents needed to force unwilling local landowners to lease property to U.S. military bases.

Eight House of Representatives members from the three ruling parties — the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the Social Democratic Party and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger] — made a one-day visit to the southernmost Japanese prefecture to listen to local voices over the bases issue.

In an evening meeting with the coalition team, Ota reiterated his determination not to sign the documents.

"They (politicians) say the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty is important for the security of Japan, but none of them has said the bases are so necessary that they will accept the bases in their prefectures or their constituencies, which has upset the people of (Okinawa) Prefecture," Ota said.

Some 75 percent of U.S. bases in Japan are concentrated in Okinawa Prefecture, which accounts for only 0.6 percent of Japan's total land area.

Later in the evening, the parliamentarians will report on their trip to Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, who will meet with Ota on Saturday to seek a breakthrough.

Vice Gov. Masanori Yoshimoto urged the government to map out a program to promote local base reduction and thoroughly review the Japan-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement.

Okinawan anger over the bases, ignited by the Sept. 4 rape of a local schoolgirl, in which three U.S. servicemen from the bases have been indicted, was further fueled by Japanese authorities not being able to take swift custody of the suspects.

The 1960 bilateral agreement permits U.S. authorities to hold service personnel suspected of committing crimes outside U.S. military bases until they are indicted by Japanese prosecutors, unless they have already been apprehended by Japanese authorities.

Former Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama of the LDP told a news conference that the government and prefectural authorities should even discuss the essentials of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty.

Seiji Maehara of Sakigake said Japan will not be able to maintain the security pact without drawing up a plan that can be understood by the people in Okinawa.

The coalition plans to make a joint proposal for a breakthrough as early as Thursday.

Earlier in the day, the ruling coalition mission visited U.S. bases and local municipal governments to gather information on the base issues.

Authorized Use of Okinawa Bases To Expire Mar 96

OW3010085395 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 29 Oct 95 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Among the uncontracted military land for which the national government is undertaking procedures for arbitrary use, renewal procedures will not be completed before the expiration date of March 1996 for the Sobe Communications Station, with an area of 226 square meters, and this is certain to give rise to a "legal void."

With Governor Masahide Ota's refusal to undertake "proxy signing" of land documents, even if the national government immediately starts legal procedures to recommend ordering the performance of administrative duties, and filing a court case, the Defense Facilities Administration Agency [DFAA] says "there will not be enough time before March 1996 for the court to pronounce a verdict."

Even if the governor does sign the land documents, it would still be difficult for the Defense Facilities Administration Bureau to complete the procedures of applying for forcible land use with Okinawa's land expropriation committee, circulating the notices of the local government, proxy circulating of the governor's notices, and public hearing by the land expropriation committee by March 1996.

Since a similar "legal void" of 18 days from 15 May 1977 resulted from expiration of land use authorization under the "Law on Temporary Use of Public Land," this will be the first instance in 19 years that military land will be occupied illegally. Faced with such a situation, the government is in anguish over how to deal with the problem.

Forcible land use involves 2,927 landowners (including local government entities) owning military land primarily used for the Kadena and Futenma airfields. Included in this is land being used for the Sobe Communications Station, which is owned by Shoichi Chibana, a resident of Yomitan village. The expiration date for the authorized use of this land is at the end of March 1996, while that of the other tracts of land falls on 14 May 1997.

With regard to the case of the Sobe facility, former DFAA Director General Noboru Hoshuyama testified at the lower house Committee on the Cabinet on 19 October that "it requires at least five to six months for the prime minister to recommend and order the performance of administrative duties, and actually sign the land documents by proxy." He was anxious that if the prime minister did not start the legal procedures soon, a "legal void" might result. The "five to six months" mentioned by Hoshuyama is the minimum amount of time needed for the procedures. In reality, the prevailing view within the DFAA is that "it would be impossible to avoid the expiration."

Under the Local Government Act, if the governor refuses to follow an order to perform administrative duties, the prime minister can file a case with the High Court to order him to perform duties. Upon formal filing of the case, the High Court will have to hold a hearing within 15 days.

Furthermore, according to the Supreme Court's "Rules on Cases Involving Administrative Orders," the plaintiff in such administrative cases presents his case and the evidence at the initial hearing, in order to facilitate speedy proceedings.

However, according to lawyer Masahide Ahagon, who is an expert on such proceedings: "The actual length of time required for such cases all depends on judicial orders issued by the court." He claimed that there is no basis to assume a case can be handled in "five or six months."

With regard to legal actions that landowners can take after the expiration of authorized use, lawyer Zenzo Ishimine, who was once a legal counsel for a case contesting the constitutionality of the "Law on Temporary Use of Public Land," pointed out: "The landowner can apply for court injunction for the return of land; and if his free passage on his land is obstructed, he can apply for injunction to proscribe obstruction of free passage." The owner of the Sobe land, Chibana, 47, says: "I would like to take all possible legal action."

While the DFAA is closely watching discussions between the Prime Minister's Office and the ruling parties on the one hand, and Governor Ota on the other, to seek a solution, it is also studying ways to avert a "legal void" within existing laws in preparation for a possible breakdown of the discussions.

Okinawa Considers Making Petition to Ministry

OW2810090495 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 28 Oct 95 Morning Edition p 25

[FBIS Translated Text] "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA] is excessively passive." "To persuade the MOFA is the main task." The representative committee of the Okinawan People's Rally (comprised of seven floor groups in the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly) held a meeting at the Prefectural Assembly building on 27 October for the first time after petitioning the central government with the resolution approved at the rally held on 21 October. Participants agreed that although their actions had obtained good results to a certain extent, it is necessary for them to take further actions. They decided again to petition the MOFA, the biggest obstacle against the realization of the group's demands, on a large scale prior to the Japan-U.S. summit talks on 20 November.

Representatives of each party, one after another, criticized the MOFA, saying: "The MOFA is more weak-kneed than other government offices," and "priority should be given to how to cope with the MOFA over visiting the United States." Some participants suggested: "We must cooperate with associations of Okinawan people residing in Kanto region to lodge a protest on as large of a scale as possible," and "we should encircle the MOFA and stage a sit-in protest." They then decided the outline of the "operation aimed at persuading the MOFA." Each party intends to consult within the party about these deliberations. Representatives will hold a meeting again at 0900 [0000 GMT] on 30 October to discuss details of the schedule and what action to take. Then, they will ask the council of organizations sponsoring the rally and the executive committee to convene in order to win these groups' approval for representative committee's plans.

At the representative meeting, Okinawa Prefectural Assembly Speaker Chiken Kakazu gave a speech: "We met with Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and other concerned ministers, and presented them with the scenario (of Okinawa) Okinawan people have been wishing for. I believe these actions will win a certain appraisal. What kind of results we can obtain depends on a decision that will be made at the Japan-U.S. summit. We should start afresh to formulate strategies to appeal Okinawan people's opinions in the future."

Representatives confirmed the following at the meeting: 1) to continue to take concrete actions in a bid to activate the movement, and 2) to convene the executive committee as soon as possible to report the results of the recent petition made in Tokyo by the delegation. They are considering petitioning the MOFA sometime between the meeting of Murayama and Okinawa Governor Ota, which is set for 4 November, and the bilateral summit to be held on 20 November.

Analyst Examines Missions of U.S. Forces

OW3010132295 Tokyo AERA in Japanese 30 Oct 95 pp 32-35

[Article by AERA editorial staff Shunji Taoka: "U.S. Forces in Japan Are Not Defending Japan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Many Americans believe that the mission of U.S. forces in Japan is to defend Japan and that Tokyo allocates a great deal more money to support the expenses in support of that mission if there is a threat to withdrawal the forces. In reality, most U.S. forces in Japan shoulder regional missions. The United States should be grateful to Japan because it willingly allows the United States to station in Japan the troops intended for deterring aggression in areas other than Japan and because Tokyo shoulders far larger stationing expenses than any other allied nation."

So said Stephen J. Solarz, the then subcommittee chairman on Asia-Pacific affairs of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, in his speech before the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo on 6 September 1991. Following September's alleged rape of an Okinawan schoolgirl by U.S. servicemen, questions were suddenly raised about the U.S. military bases, which even following the end of the Cold War have not decreased, and about the so-called "sympathy budget" that Tokyo allocates to cover for base maintenance.

Army Personnel Are for Supplies and Intelligence

Senior Defense Agency officials, who have been continuously confronted by U.S. demands for increased subsidy payments, expressed their view that "the time has come to reexamine the role of every U.S. military unit stationed in Japan." A "special agreement" that is pending approval by the Diet calls for disbursement of increased subsidies to the sympathy budget over the next five years beginning with the next five years was signed in September in Washington. When Japan disburses funds in accordance with that agreement, U.S. military bases in Okinawa and other areas will become fixed ones. In order to have Japanese taxpayers consider whether the sympathetic budget be recognized and continued, we will attempt to provide a small, detailed review of U.S. military bases and units in Japan.

The U.S. Army in Japan has only 1,900 men on duty. At Camp Zama in Kanagawa Prefecture, the U.S. Army used to maintain the nominal headquarters of the Ninth Corps, which was supposed to command U.S. Army reinforcements that would be dispatched to Japan in an emergency. Last month this headquarters was abolished.

Most U.S. Army personnel are either connected to supply or intelligence functions. The only combat troops are about 400 soldiers from the First Battalion, First Special Force (Airborne) Group, at Okinawa's Torii Station. But the Special Force troops, who wear the "Green Beret," are not supposed to defend Okinawa. Their mission, in the event of an emergency, is to parachute down behind enemy lines to collect information and engage in sabotage. Okinawa is used as a training ground and as a place for personnel to wait.

An important unit is the 500th Military Intelligence Brigade located at Zama. Under the brigade is the 750th Military Intelligence Battalion in Misawa, Aomori Prefecture, which is presumably engaged in monitoring wireless information in Japan and its vicinity. The 181st Military Intelligence Detachment posts its personnel in Okinawa, Kure, Yokohama, Zama, and Misawa. There have been many disclosures of U.S. intelligence organizations monitoring overseas telephone conversations from Japanese government offices and business enterprises. Successive directors from the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, have noted that CIA's major collection targets are "economic rival or rivals." There is absolutely no provision for ending Japanese financial assistance that goes to collecting Japanese information.

Okinawa is Marines' Training Grounds

TORII, the on-base newspaper at Camp Zama, in its 24 June 1994 issue reported that the "U.S. Army Far East Technology Center" moved from Yokota in Tokyo to the Sagami Supplies Center. The technology center, consisting of 20 American and 14 Japanese personnel, is said to be designed in order to make contributions to weapons development by gathering the latest technical information and securing "specialists with whom consultations can be made." The center is also said to have contacts and connections with Japanese research and development offices introduced by the Self Defense Forces.

It is legal to collect and translate publicized technical information material and send it to the home country, or meet and listen to what Japanese technicians have to tell, after disclosing one's identity. But the 14 Japanese staff who translate and make technical reports are "employees of the U.S. forces in Japan" and their salaries are paid 100 percent out of the sympathy budget. What a really generous government it is to give subsidies to foreign intelligence activities in Japan.

The largest component of the U.S. forces in Japan is made up by the Marines, who are specially trained for landing operations. Under the command of the III Marine Expeditionary Force with its headquarters at Camp Courtney in Okinawa are the 3d Marine Division and the 1st Marine Air Wing, with its headquarters in Zukeran, Okinawa. Of a total strength of 21,000 personnel, 18,000 are stationed in Okinawa, with the remaining 3,000 primarily attached to the 12th Marine Air Group at Iwakuni Marine Air Station, Yamaguchi Prefecture, mainland Japan. The Marines account for 63 percent of the total of 28,600 U.S. servicemen in Okinawa; Marine facilities account for 75 percent of the U.S. military bases on Okinawa.

It is apparent that the Marines are not stationed for the defense of Okinawa. A 2,000-man Marine expeditionary force, comprised of a Marine battalion, five tanks, eight 155mm howitzers, 16 transport helicopters, and four attack helicopters are for the purpose of assisting landing operations and await orders to move aboard five landing ships under the command of the U.S. 7th Fleet.

Their operational area ranges from the Pacific Ocean west of 160 degrees east longitude to the whole area of the Indian Ocean east of 17 degrees east longitude. They are at the ready to launch landing operations on any shore at once if necessity calls. Okinawa is being used only for them to wait for the shifts and for training grounds.

Rear Base for ROK Defense

The U.S. forces have its Northeast Asian strategy under constant study, specifically to be ready to cope with the recurrence of the Korean War. This is why the 3d Marine Division conducts landing operation exercises every year in a joint U.S.-ROK maneuver named "Team Spirit." Meanwhile, in the DPRK (North Korea) petroleum supplies from Russia have almost stopped and last year's oil import decreased to about 900,000 tons, a quarter of the 1989 amount. The DPRK could not conduct large-scale trainings that would require a number of vehicles; moreover, fighter pilots were assumed to be able to get in only 20 hours flight training a year. So the situation turned out to be manageable by the ROK and U.S. forces in Korea, even if the North resorts to the final means of pushing southward.

Team Spirit exercises were not held the last two years. Instead, the 3d Marine Division in June last year conducted landing exercises near Vladivostok with the Russian Navy's infantryman under the name Emergency Relief Training. This past August a joint U.S.-Russian landing operation exercise was carried out in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

Originally, a U.S. Marine division is composed of three infantry regiments and a battery regiment. In May last year, the 9th Marines (regiment) in Okinawa was abolished and the 3d Marine Division in Okinawa is now irregularly composed of one infantry regiment (the 4th Marines) and one battery regiment (the 12th Marines). It may signify that the U.S. defense authorities do not attach importance on the 3d Marine Division.

The U.S. Air Force has three squadrons of 54 F-15 Eagles stationed at Kadena Air Force base, Okinawa, under the command of the 18th Air Wing, and two squadrons of 40 F-16 Fighting Falcons in Misawa, Aomori Prefecture, under the command of the 35th Air Fighter Wing.

A part of Kadena's F-15 Eagles are at all time dispatched to Osan Air Base in the ROK on air defense missions. Thus, Kadena bears a strong impression of being a rear base for the ROK's defense. F-16 Fighting Falcons were first introduced to Misawa in 1985 and their major objectives were to attack Soviet air bases on Iturup on the Kuril Islands and southern Sakhalin and to assist infiltration by U.S. Navy antisubmarine reconnaissance planes into the Sea of Okhotsk. The then U.S. strategy was to reduce the Soviet Union's nuclear offensive capabilities against U.S. by destroying Soviet strategic missiles hidden under the Sea of Okhotsk immediately after the outbreak of hostilities: F-16 Fighting Falcons were there for that purpose.

No Air Defense Mission for Japan

The U.S. Air Force is under no obligation to defend Japanese air space. When radar sites and air defense command posts were transferred to Japan's Air Self Defense Force in 1959, it was agreed that each side will utilize separate command channels in accordance with the "Matsumae-Burns [name as published] Agreement" signed by the commanding generals of Japan's Air Defense Command and the U.S. Air Force Command in Japan. Because the U.S. Air Force is not under the restriction of Japan's interception control, it could entrust the air defense mission to the Japanese Air Self Defense Force and concentrate on attack missions and dispatches to the ROK.

In particular, Okinawa is a safe place as it is 2,000 kilometers away from Vladivostok and also out of operational radius of Soviet fighter planes. Therefore, 63 percent of the total strength of the U.S. forces in Japan and 75 percent of all military bases could be concentrated in Okinawa.

At another U.S. Air Force base, Yokota in Tokyo, is the U.S. Forces in Japan Command Headquarters and the U.S. Fifth Air Force Command Headquarters, which controls the U.S. Air Force in Japan. No combat troops are stationed there except about 20 C-130 medium size transport planes, the main component of the 374th Air Transport Wing. Yokota is a relay base for transports bound for the American mainland and the ROK, as well as an important transport base in contingency times, with a passenger terminal similar in layout in to civilian airports.

The U.S. Navy has turned Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture, into the mother port for nine navy ships, including the 7th Fleet flagship Blueridge, the aircraft carrier Independence, and their escorting cruisers, destroyers, and frigates. Of late two mine sweepers were added to that list. They are not only intended for Japan's defense but also for the defense of the western Pacific and the Indian Ocean.

Benefited by Maritime Peace

At Sasebo in Nagasaki Prefecture there are more than 2,000 U.S. Marines, 35 helicopters, and five landing ships, including the assault landing ship "Belleau Wood", which can take aboard 45 amphibious armored personnel carriers. These five ships can transport a Marines Expeditionary Force, which is composed of a Marine battalion and its equipment, aboard. They are there for transporting a part of the U.S. 3d Marine Division.

Atsugi in Kanagawa Prefecture is a naval air station set up in conjunction with Yokosuka. Because an aircraft carrier cannot let its planes take off while the ship is in port, it becomes defenseless and pilots' combat skills become inferior. So, it becomes necessary for the aircraft carrier to let planes take off and land in nearby airfields and let them engage in training before it is anchored in port. Atsugi can provide administrative assistance to the air wing aboard the aircraft carrier and has facilities to make repairs and maintenance that are otherwise difficult to perform at sea.

Among the U.S. forces in Japan, it is likely that the only contribution to Japanese defense has come from the U.S. Navy. The Navy maintained superiority over the Soviet Navy and secured undisturbed maritime traffic. Because the U.S. Navy could dispatch four or five aircraft-carriers to the spot and let approximately 300 fighter and assault planes concentrate there in the event of hostilities, there were no countries that would dare cross the ocean and attack the friendly United States. However, Japan was not the only country that was benefited by Pax Americana, the oceanic peace brought by the strength of the U.S. Navy. All the allied and non-allied nations also benefited from this. Japanese economic development resembled that of the 19th century America, which could concentrate on overseas trade and domestic development without devoting energy to armaments for Pax Britannica that was supported by British naval supremacy. But the United States did not lease bases to the British Navy nor did it shoulder a partial share of its expenses.

MOT: United's Route Violates Aviation Accord

OW2810031695 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 27 Oct 95 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Transport (MOT) claimed on 26 October that passenger transportation via Narita-Seoul routes of United Airlines of the United States violates the aviation treaty between Japan and the United States and disclosed that it had asked the U.S. Government to hold aviation consultations to correct this violation. This was a measure taken in connection with the approvals for U.S. airlines' operational plans for this winter that the MOT announced on the same day. In September, Japan and the United States started talks on reviewing the aviation treaty on air cargo service. However, MOT will most likely look into the possible violation in the passenger transportation service and press for revising the treaty, which is disadvantageous to the Japanese side.

Since United's Narita-Seoul route originates in either Los Angeles or Honolulu, it can be regarded as a "beyond" route. And it is stipulated in Article 12 of the Japan-U.S. aviation treaty that "the primary objective will be transportation between the two nations." Therefore, in approving this route, MOT set a condition that the ratio of the number of passengers on the flights between Seoul and Narita, a transit station, should be under 50 percent. MOT pointed out that the ratio had reached 90.1 percent in its latest survey (for the April-August period).

In announcing its approval for the operational plans this time, MOT cited concrete ratios of the number of passengers on three other United's routes (from Narita to Bangkok, Hong Kong, and Singapore) in addition to its Narita-Seoul route as well as one Northwest Airlines route (from Narita to Seoul) to emphasize that the treaty has been violated. It also set a condition that the ratio must be brought down to 50 percent or below and further asked for relevant data to be submitted. Concerning requests for starting a new United route between Seoul and Kansai International Airport and another new route from Narita to Shanghai and Beijing by Federal Express, a major cargo company, MOT has decided to continue to defer approval. Thus, it has indicated its all-around hardline stance.

'High-Level Meeting' With EU Scheduled 6-7 Nov

OW3010085995 Tokyo KYODO in English 0826 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 30 KYODO — Japan and the European Union (EU) will hold a high-level meeting Nov. 6-7 in Tokyo to discuss bilateral and international economic affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [MOFA] said Monday [30 October].

Deputy Foreign Minister Kazuo Ogura will head the Japanese delegation consisting of officials from such ministries as foreign, finance, trade and agriculture.

The EU side will be headed by Horst Krenzler, EU director general for external economic relations.

During the two-day talks, the two sides are to discuss Japan-EU economic relations, the international economy, and cooperation between Japan and the EU in various fields, the ministry said.

The EU is also likely to submit a list of requests for Japanese deregulation measures, it said.

Envoy Says France To Cut Nuclear Test to 6

OW2810023595 Tokyo KYODO in English 0214 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 28 KYODO — France plans to conduct three more nuclear tests by next spring, reducing the number from the originally planned eight to six, ambassador Jean-Bernard Ouvrieu told Foreign Minister Yohei Kono on Saturday [28 October].

The French ambassador made the comment in a meeting with Kono, who had called him to the Foreign Ministry to protest the year's third nuclear explosion of the year by France at Mururoa atoll on Friday, ministry officials said.

Kono called in the French envoy to repeat Japan's request to halt nuclear testing immediately, they said.

Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said the test is "extremely regrettable."

"We have repeatedly protested the testing...and we will again demand that the testing be stopped," he told reporters at his official residence.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka issued a statement, saying, "we take it very seriously that another nuclear test was conducted despite our repeated demands. We strongly demand that no further tests take place."

Friday's underground explosion of a nuclear device, said to have been under 60 kilotons, or 60,000 tons of tnt, followed two nuclear tests Sept. 5 and Oct. 1, all carried out in defiance of worldwide protest, especially from Pacific nations, including Japan.

Following France's announcement of the planned test resumption in June, China conducted its second nuclear test this year in August.

France's latest nuclear test sparked a sit-in by antinuclear activists in Nagasaki's Peace Park on Saturday morning.

"They don't understand at all the suffering of the atomic bomb victims. We really feel helpless," said Sakue Shimohira, 60, an a-bomb survivor.

"They make fools of all those people around the globe who protested the tests. I want (French) President Jacques Chirac to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki to understand what happens as a result of nuclear damage," she said.

Haruo Kurosaki, 60, a photographer who has been documenting the fate of Nagasaki atomic bomb survivors since 1968, denounced the latest test as demonstrating "the egoism of the nuclear powers."

"We can do nothing but continue to protest given that France has said they will conduct further tests. Murayama as premier of the only country that has sustained atomic raids must take a much more resolute attitude in telling France that it must not conduct nuclear tests," he said.

In Papeete, Tahiti, the international environmental organization Greenpeace called the test an offense to the people around the world and predicted that it will cost Chirac voter support.

The organization, which is monitoring and protesting the testing from two vessels near Mururoa atoll, is considering new actions, officials at the Papeete office said.

The French ambassador told Kono that more tests are necessary to obtain data to secure the credibility of nuclear weapons, the Foreign Ministry officials said.

Ouvrieu also sought Japan's understanding on France's efforts to promote nuclear disarmament, such as its recent decision to sign a treaty banning nuclear weapons and their testing in the South Pacific, and its pledge to sign a global test ban treaty outlawing all nuclear testing, they said.

Kono said that although Japan welcomes the French decision to sign the South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty, also known as the Treaty of Rarotonga, and its stance on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, it wants France to move further and decide not to conduct any more tests.

Australia, New Zealand and other South Pacific countries, and two declared nuclear powers — China and Russia — have already signed the Rarotonga Treaty.

Along with France, Britain and the United States have also said they will sign the pact.

Kono also told a press conference that Japan plans to step up its efforts in the United Nations to adopt a resolution urging an end to nuclear testing.

"I told the ambassador that Japan has proposed the resolution at the U.N. and that it is currently making efforts to obtain a large number of supporters. I think this kind of international public opinion will have a great impact on France."

After the French nuclear test in September, Japan sent a special envoy to Paris to protest.

U.S., Australia Easing Farm Exclusion Stance

OW2710142195 Tokyo SANKEI SHIMBUN in Japanese 26 Oct 95 Morning Edition p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] On 25 October, a government source said that, softening their opposition, the United States and Australia are now showing understanding of Japan's call for "excluding" sensitive trade sectors like agriculture from the trade liberalization plan of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group.

The exclusion issue was expected to become the focus of the Osaka APEC meeting in November as these two countries strongly opposed a draft plan proposed by host nation Japan.

Kabun Muto, former international trade and industry minister and senior Liberal Democratic Party member, visited the United States and Australia to explain Japan's view on trade liberalization and returned home 21 October. Referring to this, the source said: "We obtained quite good understanding from them. They now know that Japan basically regards most sectors as being subject to liberalization." He then continued: "With their support, it is possible to proceed to opinion coordination with other countries and pave the way for an agreement at the APEC ministerial talks." The source clearly indicated the possibility that the Osaka meeting could bring about a political settlement.

APEC Draft Urges Two-Stage Liberalization

OW2910082495 Tokyo KYODO in English 0726 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 29 KYODO — The final draft of the so-called action agenda to be adopted at the informal summit of leaders from 18 members of the APEC forum proposes a two-stage approach to trade and investment liberalization in the area by the year 2020.

According to the draft documents obtained by KYODO NEWS SERVICE, the action program calls on each member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum to set concrete and detailed targets for trade and investment liberalization from a short- and medium-term perspective.

The draft agenda, however, proposes that member economies draw up long-term policies only as basic guidelines to liberalize trade and investment by 2010 for industrialized economies and by 2020 for developing members in the region.

The two stage-approach is apparently envisaged to allow more time for the settlement of such thorny issues as farm trade liberalization at the summit to be held in Osaka on Nov. 19.

Japan, South Korea, China and Taiwan have demanded that farm trade be excluded from APEC's principle of comprehensive application of trade-freeing goals. Farm product-exporting countries such as the United States and Australia, however, have strongly opposed such exceptions.

Japan, as the host of this year's APEC round, will hold final negotiations with other members on the draft at a series of APEC meetings, including a ministerial one, to be held in Osaka from Nov. 13 prior to the summit.

The senior officials of APEC's 18 members failed to iron out their differences over trade-freeing general principles when they met in Tokyo early this month.

Ministry Denies Mahathir To Miss Osaka APEC

OW3010065795 Tokyo KYODO in English
0621 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 30 KYODO — A senior Japanese Government official denied Monday [30 October] speculation that Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed would not attend the Nov. 19 summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

"Mahathir has yet to clarify his intention to go to Osaka...But I don't think major problems to block his attendance exist," Tomio Tsutsumi, vice international trade and industry minister, told a news conference.

Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama has sent Masajuro Shiokawa, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's Executive Council, to Malaysia as a special government envoy to persuade Mahathir to take part in the Osaka APEC summit.

"Mahathir did not promise his attendance to the upcoming Osaka APEC summit but I did not hear he has flatly rejected participation in it," Tsutsumi said.

Mahathir boycotted the first APEC informal summit in Seattle in 1993 — partly because of the controversy over his proposed East Asian Economic Caucus — but attended the following year's summit in Bogor, Indonesia.

Envoy Sent To Dissuade Li's APEC Attendance

OW3010150095 Tokyo KYODO in English
1450 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 30 KYODO — Japan dispatched government envoy Nobuo Matsunaga to Taiwan on Monday [30 October] to dissuade Taiwan President Li Teng-hui from attending the November summit meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Osaka, government sources said.

Matsunaga, former ambassador to Washington, talked over the issue with Taiwanese officials, the sources said.

The sources, however, did not reveal the contents of the discussions.

Japan had earlier sent Hiromoto Seki, ambassador in charge of APEC affairs, to Taiwan but failed to get Taiwan to agree.

Taiwan has so far asserted that all 18 APEC members should be represented at the summit by envoys of equal rank, but Japan fears that inviting Li will anger China, which opposes any participation by the president at APEC forums.

Matsunaga arrived in Taipei after visiting Malaysia with Masajuro Shiokawa, a special envoy dispatched by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, to call on Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed to attend the APEC informal summit.

Tokyo Changes Policy Toward Talks With Pyongyang

OW3010102795 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN in Japanese 29 Oct 95 Morning Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The government has changed its policy of seeking an early resumption of talks with the DPRK (North Korea) on normalizing diplomatic relations. It has decided to deal cautiously with the matter. The decision was made in consideration of growing fears in South Korea about the possibility of

"Japan promoting its relations with the DPRK over the ROK's head." Seoul has expressed such an anxiety since the beginning of October.

From now on, even if Pyongyang proposes a specific place and date for normalization talks, the government will not immediately accept the proposal. Also, in view of the fact that the DPRK has repeatedly criticized Japan in international conferences despite recent Japanese rice aid to the country, Tokyo has concluded that "the current conditions are not appropriate for resuming Japan-DPRK talks at an early date."

When the ruling parties' delegation (headed by the late Michio Watanabe, former deputy prime minister and foreign minister) visited North Korea in March, they reached an agreement with the Korean Workers Party on resuming normalization talks. Following this, the government has sought the early resumption of talks with Pyongyang. Nevertheless, Tokyo's policy change is likely to make a turning point in Japan-DPRK relations.

The government is very worried about growing dissatisfaction in the ROK with Japan's rice aid to North Korea and Tokyo's moves to resume normalization talks with Pyongyang. In a recent interview with NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN, South Korean President Kim Yong-sam said: "If Tokyo promotes talks with Pyongyang over the ROK's head, this will give South Koreans the impression that Japan is hindering the reunification of the two Koreas."

Japan-ROK relations have been strained over arguments about whether the Japan-Korea Annexation Treaty was made legally. The government has concluded that in such a situation "if Tokyo seeks the early resumption of talks with the DPRK, it may harm relations between Japan and the ROK." Behind Seoul's anxiety over the possibility of Japan and the DPRK promoting their relations lies its dissatisfaction with the fact that North-South relations have not improved as planned. From now on, Tokyo will closely watch Pyongyang's reactions to its policy changes and developments in North-South relations.

Mobile Phone Firms' FY95 Spending Escalating

OW3010093495 Tokyo KYODO in English
0844 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 30 KYODO — Capital outlays planned for fiscal 1995 by mobile communications companies total 1,115.9 billion yen, up 85 percent over the previous year, the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry said Monday [30 October]. The amount is 230 billion yen more than initially planned by the operators, said the ministry, which surveyed 86 automobile and portable phone companies, beeper-service companies and personal handy phone system operators' capital spending plans as of Oct. 1.

The sharp growth in planned expenditures reflects brisk demand for mobile communications services, ministry officials said.

Capital outlays planned by the 86 companies are larger than those by steelmakers which plan to spend 964.9 billion yen, according to a survey by the Economic Planning Agency in September.

The agency also found electric power companies planned capital investment of 5,012.6 billion yen, with electric machinery makers planning 3,350.7 billion yen and automakers planning 1,234.9 billion yen.

Since Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. began automobile and portable phone services in December 1979, the market for mobile communications services has grown sharply and price competition has intensified due to newcomers.

In the April-September first half of fiscal 1995, the number of new subscribers totaled 2.33 million and exceeded the previous year's figure, ministry officials said.

FTC Seeks Deregulation Before NTT Breakup

OW3010114195 Tokyo KYODO in English
1052 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 30 KYODO — A research panel will seek deregulation in the telecommunications market before taking measures to split up domestic telecom giant Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp., sources close to the group said Monday [30 October].

The group studying ways to promote competition in the telecom market at the request of the Fair Trade Commission [FTC] will make the appeal in a report to be unveiled as early as mid-November, the sources said.

The proposed division of NTT into long-distance and regional telephone entities to promote competition has been under study by various groups, including an advisory body to the posts and telecommunications minister.

The sources said the study group's report will stress the need for deregulation by the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry to promote competition in the market before a decision is made on NTT's division.

The report will tell the ministry that the division of NTT will not help promote competition unless deregulatory measures such as a substantial scale back of the ministry's licensing procedures are taken, they said.

The report will urge the ministry to remove restrictions on entry into the telecom market by newcomers and abolish in principle regulations on telephone rates and services provided by telephone companies, the sources said.

At the same time, the report will call on NTT to open its regional telephone networks to rivals and offer them easy access to its network, they said.

FTC Creates Guidelines for Antimonopoly Laws

OW3010094295 Tokyo KYODO in English 0809 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 30 KYODO — The government's fair trade watchdog unveiled a set of new guidelines Monday [30 October] for business groups to observe the antimonopoly law, the first revision in 16 years.

The Fair Trade Commission (FTC) said the new rules are designed to help industries easily understand the legal provisions and promote fair competition.

The new guidelines warn industry organizations against seeking member companies to apply for fare and price revisions in unison because such acts constitute a violation of the law, commission officials said.

To open markets wider and promote fair competition, the officials said the new rules include a provision on market access procedures for newcomers.

'News Focus' Views Rice Market Issues

OW3010113395 Tokyo KYODO in English 0955 GMT 30 Oct 95

["News Focus" By Yoichi Kosukegawa: "New Food Law To Clear Up Gray Areas of Rice Market"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 30 KYODO — Japan's New Food Law, which comes into effect Wednesday [1 November], will not only open up the once tightly controlled rice market but also help clear up gray areas in the market by providing more transparent information.

"As much as 1.6 million tons of rice has been sold on the market as the popular Koshihikari brand, although Koshihikari's actual annual crop is estimated at 800,000 tons," a rice dealer said, highlighting one such gray area. "This means Koshihikari is being blended with a large amount of lower-grade rice," he said. There are many such gray areas in the rice market.

Under the present Staple Food Control Law, which has dictated Japan's rice market for more than 50 years, farmers are required to sell rice to the government through agricultural cooperatives for distribution to licensed wholesalers and retailers.

But the new food law will substantially limit the government's role in rice distribution.

It will authorize farmers to sell rice directly to wholesalers, retailers and consumers, and allow anyone to enter the wholesale and retail sectors upon registration with prefectural governments.

Koji Kawase, a consultant on rice distribution issues, said, "the new law will mark the start of Japan's new rice era, putting an end to the government's closed-door policy on rice."

"One of the big changes under the new law will be increasing outflows of more detailed and transparent information on rice products," Kawase said.

Until now, the government has controlled rice supplies, making farmers, rice sellers and consumers almost indifferent to information on rice products.

But the new law is expected to prompt farmers, wholesalers and retailers to provide consumers with full information on rice because they will likely be forced to differentiate their products in order to survive.

Farmers who want a stable income may continue to ship their rice to agricultural cooperatives so that it can be purchased by the government.

But those who are confident in the quality and taste of their rice, and want higher income are expected to sell it directly to wholesalers and retailers.

Different types of rice shipped to agricultural cooperatives are all blended there and dried. But direct sales allow farmers to seek originality in their products, such as producing organically grown rice or naturally dried rice.

Partly because farmers are increasingly being exposed to a threat from foreign rice, they are also expected to boast the origin and type of their rice products.

Japan is required to import foreign rice equivalent to 4-8 percent of domestic consumption over a six-year period from 1995 under the "minimum access" scheme of the Uruguay Round global trade accord.

The provisions of the New Food Law that cover the partial opening of the rice market took effect in April.

Kawase said he expects that farmers will pursue keen product differentiation strategies.

The new law, for example, could let consumers choose highest grade, sticky Koshihikari rice grown in Uonuma, Niigata Prefecture, for Japanese dishes and the recently popular, less sticky Akitakomachi rice for Western food, Kawase said.

The new law is expected to have a particularly serious effect on traditional family-owned small rice stores because big companies are showing a strong appetite for entering the 3 trillion yen rice market.

According to industry sources, major trading houses such as Marubeni Corp. and Itochu Corp. are eager to enter the rice market through subsidiaries to gain large-volume customers, like restaurant operators and food companies.

Possible newcomers to the market include gas stations, kiosk operators, laundries, drug stores and mail order companies.

Although the actual entrance of such new rivals will not be until after next June, many traditional rice retailers are voicing worries about their future.

A rice store owner in downtown Tokyo said that under the new law, the number of rice stores in Tokyo is expected to swell from the current 5,000 to 30,000 at the initial stage.

But the owner said the number is expected to eventually fall back to the present level, with only 20-30 percent of traditional rice shops surviving. He said small shops will have little choice but to pursue a strategy of product differentiation.

Rice industry consultant Kawase said the shops that will survive the tough competition will be those that can identify consumer tastes precisely and present rice products to match.

"Under the Staple Food Control Law, rice is not a commercial product. Rice will become a commercial product for the first time under the new law," he said.

Defense Agency Proposes SDF Reduction Plan

OW2810044795 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 27 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report; from the "NHK News" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a 27 October meeting of the government Security Council, the Defense Agency [DA] proposed a plan to reduce the size of the Self-Defense Forces [SDF], including a cut in the ceiling on the Ground SDF personnel from the current 180,000 to 160,000, in line with the post-Cold War world situation. According to the proposal, the DA suggests lowering the number of Ground SDF by about 20 percent from the current 180,000 to 160,000, including 15,000 of the so-called reserve SDF personnel who can be deployed in the frontline if necessary. It also suggests making a 20 percent reduction in 1,200 tanks, along with a 10 percent cut in 1,000 cannons.

Concerning the Maritime SDF, the agency plans to make a 10 to 20 percent reduction in 60 escort vessels, while leaving its main troops intact. In addition, the number of minesweeper units will be cut in one-half.

Regarding the Air SDF, the DA intends to reduce 10 percent of the 430 operational airplanes, mainly fighter planes whose mission is to repulse intruding planes.

The DA revealed for the first time its plan to purchase tanker planes. However, the participants said that in the era of disarmament, it is not favorable in terms of exclusively defensive defense [senshu boei]. The council has decided to continue studying this plan, along with the reduction program proposed by the agency on the same day.

Ministry Urges Protection of Defense Industry

OW2910144895 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 28 Oct 95 Morning Edition p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI], acknowledging the severe situation of the defense industry due to defense budget cuts, has compiled a draft report calling for measures to maintain the nation's technological standards and productivity. This is the first MITI report to prepare for a review of the National Defense Program Outline and creation of the next defense program at the end of this year.

The draft report notes a possibility of Japan-U.S. joint defense development and production in the future. If it materializes, it may lead to a partial review of the government's policy of banning arms exports, represented in its "three principles of arms exports."

A "council to study various issues relating to the defense industry," under MITI's Machinery and Information Industries Bureau, will soon put out the draft as an interim report.

Major heavy industrial and electrical manufacturers may withdraw from the defense sector by reassigning their engineers and experts to other areas, and subcontractors who depend entirely on defense industry requirements will be out of business. Pointing out these concerns in the report, MITI says that it will create problems in national defense should the defense industry lose its foundation.

The report suggests cutting expenses and improving technology as ways to protect the defense industry. Regarding research and development of advanced equipment, including the Theater Missile Defense (TMD) system, which requires an enormous budget, the report says: "International joint development must be considered." It then continues, "A study on joint development in relation to the three principles of arms exports is also imperative for the future." What is possibly indicated here is Japan's eventual export of arms to other countries, if international collaboration becomes a reality.

MITI intends basically to respect the policy of prohibiting arms exports as "a policy befitting the national sentiments of peace- loving people." In industrial circles, however, there are calls for policy revision in Japan-U.S. relations. In the draft report, MITI reflected such a call in limited terms.

Kubo: Sakigake Not Prerequisite for New Party

OW2810130695 Tokyo KYODO in English
1246 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kagoshima, Japan, Oct. 28 KYODO — Social Democratic Party (SDP) Secretary General Wataru Kubo said Saturday [28 October] that a merger with New Party Sakigake [Harbinger] is not a prerequisite for forming a new party in which the SDP will be involved.

Addressing a local party meeting, the No. 2 man of the SDP led by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said that the SDP has no choice but to "start a train before all the passengers have been able to board it."

Kubo was referring to the SDP-set deadline of the end of November for forming a new party involving all liberal groups in an effort to make a better showing in upcoming national elections.

Kubo has appealed to Sakigake, one of the three parties making up the tripartite ruling coalition, to join the new party. Murayama himself has been cautious about forming such a new party without Sakigake.

Although Sakigake has been cautious about joining the party unconditionally, its chief, Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura, has said his party would be ready to join if Sakigake's policies are accepted.

In a speech before a meeting of the SDP's Kagoshima Prefectural branch, Kubo said the SDP should take the initiative in forming a new party if it cannot join hands with Sakigake and other progressive groups.

In a remark apparently aimed at urging Murayama to join him in forming the new party without Sakigake, Kubo suggested that the SDP should call a regular party convention in December or January to select a new party president if the end-November deadline is not met.

Kubo made the remark as Murayama continues to serve as SDP president beyond his two-year term.

Radioactive Waste Found Leaking at Tokaimura

OW2710143295 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 27 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report; from the "NHK News 7" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] A crack has been found in a pipe of a device used to remove water from high-level radioactive waste at a nuclear waste reprocessing plant of Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corporation [Donen] in Tokaimura, Ibaraki Prefecture. Some radioactive waste was found leaking from the crack. Donen has decided to close the reprocessing plant for about two months, starting today, to replace the device.

[begin reporter recording] On 19 October, a reprocessing plant in Tokaimura, Ibaraki Prefecture, heated high-level radioactive waste, created when used nuclear fuel is reprocessed, to extract water from it. An alarm went off when the radioactive level of vapor, used to heat the waste, rose temporarily. The device heats up waste by injecting extremely hot steam through pipes into a tank containing high-level radioactive waste. According to Donen, erosion created a hole in a pipe. They said this caused a small amount of high-level radioactive waste to leak in the facility.

According to Donen, there was no possibility that the leak would affect the environment. It said that since radiation level of the device itself is so high that it cannot be dismantled for repair, Donen plans to close the plant for about two months to replace the entire device. [end recording]

North Korea

'Belligerent' Ties With U.S. Nullify Armistice

SK2810053195 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0446 GMT 28 Oct 95

["U.S. Will Be Held Responsible for Developments" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, October 28 (KCNA) — The large-scale joint manoeuvres "Foal Eagle 95" against the DPRK the United States is staging in league with the South Korean puppets behind the scene of its negotiations with the DPRK come under fire in NODONG SINMUN Saturday.

The analyst says:

No one can guarantee that the wildcat war gamble which reminds us of a full-fledged war will not turn into a real war.

While paying lip-services to "peace" on the Korean Peninsula and "improvement of relations between the DPRK and the U.S.", the United States is, in actuality, trying to stifle the DPRK by force of arms.

According to the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework adopted and published last year, the U.S. committed itself not to seek hostilities against the DPRK but to improve the relations with it. And the U.S. declared at home and abroad that it would stop "Team Spirit" nuclear war exercises.

The above-mentioned facts, however, tell that the U.S. resorts to double-dealing tactics.

The ongoing "Foal Eagle 95" joint manoeuvres are a replica of "Team Spirit" nuclear manoeuvres, an open military threat and blackmail posed to the DPRK.

The U.S. is frantically committing anti-DPRK military moves, breaking its commitments. This is an act running counter to good faith.

The U.S. military adventure against the DPRK further aggravates the belligerent relationship between the DPRK and the U.S.

The functions and role of the armistice system on the Korean Peninsula were paralyzed owing to the U.S. irresponsible and deliberate acts.

Given the aggravating belligerent relations between the DPRK and the U.S. and the removed peace-keeping mechanism it is difficult to expect a smooth implementation of the DPRK-U.S. framework agreement. The U.S. will have to be held responsible for the escalation of tensions to the extreme pitch.

U.S. Business Group Visits Najin-Sonbong Area

SK2810104695 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1010 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, October 28 (KCNA) — The delegation of the U.S. Stanton group paid its fourth visit to the Najin-Sonbong free economic and trade zone in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea over October 20-27.

During its visit, the delegation headed by Dr. Charles B. Warden inspected with deep interest the Sungni Chemical Complex, the Najin port and others.

At several rounds of talks with the DPRK committee for the promotion of external economic cooperation, the delegation discussed in real earnest matters to re-build and expand the crude oil- processing factory now in operation in the zone and double the generating capacity by means of joint venture.

The talks proceeded from the very beneficial and progressive point of view.

The delegation comprised high-ranking officials of U.S. companies specializing in oil processing and mechanical engineering.

'Peace Committee' Denounces 'Foal Eagle 95'

SK2810062095 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437 GMT 28 Oct 95

["Joint Manoeuvres Dubbed 'Foal Eagle 95' Denounced" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, October 28 (KCNA) — The Korean National Peace Committee released Friday a statement denouncing the U.S. and the South Korean puppets for staging the joint manoeuvres dubbed "Foal Eagle 95" against the DPRK.

The statement says that in view of the size of forces and equipment involved in them and in view of their character and content the manoeuvres which are being staged under the signboard of "annual defence drill" are an offensive exercise targetted at the DPRK and a replica of the "Team Spirit" nuclear war gamble in essence.

The statement further says:

The frantic war provocation moves of the South Korean puppets, backed by the U.S. warmaniacs, to do harm to the fellow countrymen are an unpardonable crime that endangers the existence of the nation and threatens peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world.

The Kim Yong-sam group are creating a terror-ridden war atmosphere throughout South Korea, aggravating the situation, putting down the desire of students and people for independence, democracy and reunification at the point of bayonet and trying to extricate themselves from a ruling crisis, but in vain.

Their reckless war manoeuvres vividly prove again that their loud-mouthed "dialogue" and "improvement of inter-Korean relations" are all hypocrisy and that they are warmaniacs who have no idea of the country and nation but only seek confrontation and war.

If the U.S. truly wants peace on the Korean peninsula and its peaceful reunification, it should honor the

DPRK-U.S. framework agreement which those countries jointly declared at home and abroad, stop war manoeuvres against the DPRK and show an early response to the DPRK's just proposal for setting up a new peacekeeping mechanism.

If the U.S. and the South Korean puppets dare encroach upon the sovereignty of the DPRK, ignoring its desire for peace, they will have to pay dearly for it.

Daily Commentary Denounces 'Foal Eagle' Exercise

SK2810105395 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0854 GMT 28 Oct 95

[NODONG SINMUN 28 October commentary: "The United States Will Be Held Responsible for Situational Developments"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The United States is engaged in a military adventure against our Republic. The United States is now conducting the large-scale Foal Eagle-95 joint military exercise with the South Korean puppets. The adventurous war exercise becomes more furious as time goes by. The huge U.S. and puppet armed forces mobilized for the Foal Eagle-95 joint military exercise are frantically engaged in simulated ground, marine, and aerial military operations for a northward invasion.

No one can guarantee that this reckless fire gamble, which reminds us of a full-fledged war, will not turn into a real war. Because of the U.S. indiscreet and insane military commotion, the Korean peninsula is faced with a dangerous situation, in which a trivial and accidental factor can propel the flames of war.

The Foal Eagle-95 joint military exercise clearly indicates the U.S. position on the issue of the Korean peninsula. While claiming to stand for peace on the Korean peninsula and want the improvement of DPRK-U.S. relations, the United States is actually trying to stifle the DPRK by force.

The frantic anti-Republic war moves by the United States are running counter to the spirit of the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework and to the commitments presented in it. In the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework adopted and announced last year, the United States committed itself not to conduct hostile acts against us but to improve relations with us. The United States also announced at home and abroad that it would stop the Team Spirit nuclear war exercise. However, facts show the United States is two-faced.

The Foal Eagle-95 joint military exercise is a copy of the Team Spirit nuclear war exercise and is an open military threat and blackmail against us.

As shown above, the Foal Eagle-95 joint military exercise is completely unjust in light of both the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework and the U.S. commitments.

The United States is madly engaged in an anti-Republic military frenzy, breaking its commitments; this is a traitorous act running counter to good faith. The U.S. military adventure against the Republic is further aggravating the hostilities [kyojon kwangye] between the DPRK and the United States. This will only bring about the aggravation of military confrontation on the Korean peninsula and increase the danger of a war.

Because of the U.S. irresponsible and deliberate acts, the functions and role of the armistice system on the Korean peninsula have been paralyzed. There is no legal and systematic device to prevent a war and guarantee peace on the Korean peninsula.

In order to implement the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework without difficulty and to guarantee peace and security on the Korean peninsula, hostilities between the DPRK and the United States must be alleviated and a new peace mechanism must be established on the Korean peninsula. It is difficult to expect a smooth implementation of the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework under the current situation, where hostilities between the DPRK and the United States were aggravated without a peace mechanism.

If the situation develops to an extreme, the United States will entirely be held responsible for that. It is worthless for the United States to expect something from us by force.

If it is truly willing to implement the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework and guarantee peace on the Korean peninsula, the United States should abandon its hostile policy to stifle the DPRK [taejoson choktaesi apsal chongchaek] and should try to resolve the issue concerning the establishment of a new peace mechanism as soon as possible.

We are closely watching the U.S. attitude.

ROK-U.S.-Japan Military Alliance Denounced

SK2810052995 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0428 GMT 28 Oct 95

["U.S., Japan and South Korea Criticised for Their Efforts To Bring Into Shape Triangular Military Alliance" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, October 28 (KCNA) — A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued Saturday a statement denouncing the ever more undisguised efforts of the U.S., Japan and South Korea to bring into shape a triangular military alliance, sharply increasing military exchanges and contacts among them under the unreasonable pretext of coping with the "threat of southward invasion from the DPRK".

The spokesman said:

As already known, the U.S. and South Korea at the "U.S.- South Korea summit talks" held in washington in July last agreed to have regular discussions on diplomatic, security and other matters and further increase military cooperation. Under the agreement the U.S. continues increasing its military aid to South Korea.

The United States and Japan are putting spurs on the establishment of "U.S.-Japan support system" aimed at coping with the "event of contingency on the Korean peninsula".

Notably, Japan-South Korea military tieup is tightened in full swing.

In July last Japan and South Korea had a secret confab covering mutual visits of warships, joint manoeuvres, and joint use of transport planes under the pretext of "cooperation in U.N. peace- keeping operations". In September the director general of the Japan Defence Agency went to South Korea and agreed on the question of having "regular talks between Japanese and South Korean defence ministers". It is some time ago that they set up a regular consulting system for the exchange of information of military equipment.

With the sign of the relaxation of tensions on the Korean peninsula in sight through the adoption of the DPRK-U.S. framework agreement and the question of normalising diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan on the order of the day, the U.S., Japan and South Korea resume their efforts to bring into shape the triangular military alliance, a legacy of the Cold War. This tells that they still pursue the policy of strength in a bid to stifle the DPRK behind the facade of the implementation of the DPRK-U.S. agreed framework.

We cannot but take a serious note of this.

The United States, Japan and South Korea never let a chance pass by without crying for "resumption of inter-Korean dialogue," "normalisation of relations" and "improved relations" with the DPRK. The policy of strength is incompatible with dialogue in any case.

"Emergency on the Korean peninsula," about which the United States, Japan and the South Korean authorities talk a great deal, is a pretext to realise their aggressive design and a trick to justify their military collusion against the DPRK.

No one can vouch when large-scale joint military exercises, which the United States stages with South Korea and Japan dozens of times every year, will develop into a real war.

The intensified efforts of the United States, Japan and South Korea for military alliance following the adoption of the framework agreement between the DPRK and the United States not only stand in the way of the implementation of the agreement but also compel the DPRK to put greater efforts into increasing the self-reliant defence capabilities for the sovereignty and security of the country.

We will not remain an onlooker to the situation.

If the process of detente that started in the wake of the DPRK-U.S. framework agreement returns to Cold War, the United States, Japan and the South Korean authorities will be wholly to blame.

Commentary Says Infiltration Cases Fabricated

SK2910070795 Pyongyang Radio Pyongyang in Korean to South Korea 1250 GMT 27 Oct 95

[Unattributed commentary: "Anticommunist Scheme Will Only Advance Self-Destruction"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Lately the South Korean authorities have been fabricating shocking scheming incidents against the North one after another in an effort to find a way out of their aggravated political crisis.

Not long ago, the South Korean authorities staged a scheming anticommunist drama of an armed spy infiltrating through the Military Demarcation Line. However, the fabrication was brought to light, thus, they were only disgraced in public. Nevertheless, on 24 October, seven days later, they once again fabricated and made public another incident of spies being dispatched to the South, and on 27 October a meeting of ministers concerned presided over by the puppet prime minister was hastily held, and issued some kind of a statement toward the North. They are raising a great commotion.

The incident of spies being dispatched to the South that was fabricated this time involved the arrest of two spies who were dispatched to recall a resident spy operating in South Korea. So 30,000 police and 800 airborne troopers of four battalions were waiting in ambush near the Chonggak temple in Puyo County, South Chungchong Province, on 24 October. After a gunfight, one of them was arrested on the spot and the other was also arrested three days later.

Needless to say, the fabricated incident of dispatching spies to the South is the puppets' planned and hackneyed scheming drama to instill an extreme anticommunist confrontational awareness. Whenever their scheming drama was faced with the fate of bankruptcy as soon as it was declared, the puppets were wrapped up in impatience; thus they put forth the incomplete scheming drama. Therefore, it seems that it is self-evident that this scheme is a fabricated drama which was devised too clumsily.

The puppets said that they could not know anything about the arrested spy because he remained silent. However, on the other hand, they enumerated details about him such as his position, his name, the purpose and background of southward infiltration, the course of infiltration, and the place for contact. Considering such completely inconsistent talk, it is self-evident that this scheming drama was staged from a clumsy scenario.

The South Korean puppets announced that at least 133 items of 40 kinds of personal belongings were confiscated from the spy, whose assignment was to recall a resident spy. This itself is all the more being clearly revealed to be a clumsy fabricated drama devised by those who do not have even elementary common sense concerning espionage. In a modern espionage battle which uses highly developed communication means and maneuverability, it is outright preposterous to make two spies cross the DMZ just to recall a resident spy, and it is contrary to common sense that a spy, to whom stealth and swiftness are vital, should take with him so many personal belongings of some 130 items of 40 kinds in broad daylight.

The pocket pistol confiscated from the spy was a Belgium made Browning pistol. This kind of pistol is carried by agents of the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP].

The puppets alleged that the day after the spy was arrested, they even dragged him to a grave near a mineral spring resort in the Pundang central park in Kyonggi Province and found one transmitter and a table of numbers from a hiding place. How could they know the hiding place if he was remaining silent and how could the spy who was arrested unconscious after shedding much blood go around with the police not several days later but just the next day? No one can by any means be convinced of this.

Moreover, what is absurd is the fact that from April, the puppets foresaw the infiltration of spies, and from three days before the incident they mobilized tens of thousands of police, some 800 airborne troopers, and many citizens and surrounded the point of contact in four layers, and carried out searches. Nevertheless, they only arrested one spy and the other disappeared like the wind and was arrested later.

To gain credibility in this scheme, the NSP mobilized all kinds of methods and means. This is the same as drawing a snake that even has feet.

The question is why should the South Korean puppets stage these clumsy smear campaigns one after another while they continue being disgraced before the eyes of the world? Underlying this is the Kim Yong-sam ring's mean scheme to tide over the serious governing crisis with so-called shock therapy.

It is the South Korean puppets' stereotyped tactic to invent a shocking incident of a smear campaign to tide over a deepening governing crisis. It is no secret that during the presidential election in 1992, Kim Yong-sam went so far as to work out a plan to fabricate a shocking anti-DPRK smear campaign along the DMZ by clothing the puppet Army soldiers with the uniforms of the People's Army.

Last year, to tide over the heightening governing crisis, the Kim Yong-sam ring invented the so-called spy case of (Kim Sam-song) and his sister, as revealed to the entire world by the declaration of conscience by Paek Hung-yong, a secret NSP agent.

The latest incident was also a fabricated drama which was planned and forged as part of the Kim Yong-sam ring's attempt to tide over the crisis.

The Kim Yong-sam ring is completely forsaken by the people because they have committed many a fascist, nation-selling act, because they are protecting and defending the Kwangju murderers, and because they are attempting to mystify the investigation of the 500 billion won slush fund.

The South Korean people, who have risen up in the antifascist struggle for democratization, are directing the spearhead of their struggle against the Kim Yong-sam ring, being aware that overthrowing the Kim Yong-sam regime is the only way to achieve independence, democracy, and reunification.

The factor driving the Kim Yong-sam regime to ruin is witnessed briskly within the political circles as well. Because traitor Kim Yong-sam is habitually engaged in treachery occupied by greed for monopoly of power, the factional conflict within the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] has become a time-bomb that could explode at any time. Even Kim Chong-pil, the Yusin remnant, as well as various other political forces, have deplored the fact that Kim Yong-sam does not have even a fraction of morality and conscience.

It is self-evident that Kim Yong-sam, who managed to assume office as president by receiving political funds from No Tae-u and with the support of the United

States and the Sixth Republic, will never be able to tide over the serious crisis to tackle such problems as the clarification of the truth of the Kwangju massacre committed with U.S. support, No Tae-u's slush fund, and the factional conflict within the DLP.

Therefore, the Kim Yong-sam ring needs shock therapy to calm down the South Korean people's anti-U.S. struggle for independence and antifascist struggle for democratization and to divert the attention of the people and political circles. This is one of the main objectives of inventing the incident of spies being dispatched to the South.

Another objective of the Kim Yong-sam ring in inventing the incident is to shift responsibility onto us for leading North-South relations to a phase of all-out confrontation and to justify their commotions of war of northward invasion, so that they may continue to dash along the road of national treachery.

Kim Yong-sam is a man who committed the great crime of national treachery by leveling guns at fellow countrymen when they suffered an unfortunate national incident in July last year, creating a new public security-oriented political situation, thus leading North- South relations, which had been developing well, to the worst phase of confrontation.

Kim Yong-sam should have deeply apologized to the nation for this unpardonable crime and stepped down from power. However, the Kim Yong-sam ring is committing crime after crime conducting various types of war exercises for northward invasion. The act of the Kim Yong-sam ring seeking only confrontation with the fellow countrymen is causing great indignation among the 70 million fellow countrymen.

The Kim Yong-sam ring is trying to calm the people's indignation with shock therapy and shift onto others the responsibility for aggravating North-South relations with the incident of spies dispatched to the South.

However, this is a foolish rash act and last-ditch desperate act of those who are incapable of seeing even an inch ahead. A smear campaign will only accelerate their ruin. Shameful destruction awaits the Kim Yong-sam ring, which continually employs anti- Republic smear campaigns.

The Kim Yong-sam ring should frankly admit that the so-called incident of spies dispatched to the South is a self-invented and self-staged drama aimed at tiding over their crisis and stop the anti-DPRK smear campaign immediately.

Kim Yong-sam Accused of Reunification Obstacle

SK2910085595 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0828 GMT 29 Oct 95

["NODONG SINMUN on Kim Yong-sam Clique's Remarks Against Reunification" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, October 29 (KCNA) — NODONG SINMUN today denounces the Kim Yong-sam clique's clamour for "taking a comprehensive measure for leading South-North relations on their initiative" as a trick to give an impression that the separatists, driven away from the trend of the nation toward reunification, have seized the initiative in the affairs of North-South relations and national reunification.

This reveals their cunning intention to lay a new obstacle in the way of reunification by means of confederacy under the signboard of "state federation" and "system reunification", says the paper in a signed commentary.

The paper continues:

It is preposterous and a mockery of the nation that the Kim Yong- sam clique, ignoring our proposal for reunification by means of confederacy, cried for "initiative in South-North relations" and "taking a comprehensive measure".

The Kim Yong-sam clique totally ruptured the North-South dialogue which had been proceeded even during the military dictatorship and drove North-South relations to the worst phase by keeping such an anti-national, anti-reunification evil law as the "National Security Law" which defines the fellow countrymen as "enemy" after his coming into power and by resuming, together with the outside forces, the provocative "Team Spirit" nuclear war exercises against the North which had been suspended at the end of the "Sixth Republic".

The warmaniacs are now leading the situation of the country to the brink of a dangerous war by staging "Foal Eagle 95" military exercises against the North and other war gambles in league with the outside forces.

It is clear to anyone that "a comprehensive measure for leading South-North relations on their initiative" advertised by them is no other than a replica of the argument about "system unification".

Regarding North-South relations and reunification, the Kim Yong- sam clique must stop laying obstacles in realising our proposal for reunification by confederation formula, which has been confirmed as a means of reunification common to the nation and must step down from power.

'Longest-Term' Prisoner Ceremony Held in ROK

*SK2510132895 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0959 GMT 25 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, October 25 (KCNA) — About 1,000 members of the family movement for realising democracy and university students held an evening of welcome to the release of Kim Son-myong, the longest-term prisoner in the world, at Korea University on October 21, Seoul-based radios reported.

They had planned to hold the ceremony at Kyonghui University. As the fascist clique mobilised police to block it, they moved the venue to Korea University and held the ceremony as scheduled, denouncing the police repression.

Daily Criticizes 'Hwarang War Gamble' Exercises

*SK3010083795 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0823 GMT 30 Oct 95*

["Warmaniacs at Peak of Hysteria" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, October 30 (KCNA) — The Kim Yong-sam group, while frantically staging the "Foal Eagle 95" joint military exercise together with outside forces across South Korea, are holding the "Hwarang" war gamble and a "joint tactical drill" with the mobilization of Armed Forces more than 200,000 strong and war equipment of different types.

These provocative war exercises against the North are leading the situation of the Korean peninsula to the very dangerous brink of war, NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today says, and notes: The Kim Yong-sam group are, indeed, a group of heinous warmaniacs, a group of traitors who are running wild with swords to plunge the nation into a nuclear war disaster by outside forces.

The news analyst goes on:

The United States and the South Korean bellicose elements are describing these war exercises against the North as "defensive." This is a deception to conceal their true colors of aggression.

"Foal Eagle 95" is not a "defense training" but a total war exercise against the North which is intended to make a surprise attack on the front and the [words indistinct] the northern half of Korea in the sky and land and on the sea, which consists of coastal attack operations, aerial attack operations, operations for airlifting " [words indistinct]'" and joint tactical operations of the ground.

This joint war exercise is all the more dangerous [word indistinct] it is a replica of the "Team Spirit" nuclear war exercises against the North, [words indistinct] which [words indistinct] staged in South Korea every year.

No one can vouch that the warmaniacs will not ignite a fuse of war against the North while staging the war exercises against the North including "Foal Eagle 95."

If the provokers think they will get off scotfree when they ignite a war on the Korean peninsula, it will be miscalculation.

We, who are fully ready to defeat the enemy at one stroke when it pounces upon us, again warn the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets should not run wild in the war rackets against the North.

Sihanouk 'Strongly Opposed' to ROK Relations

*SK2810064595 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0502 GMT 28 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, October 28 (KCNA) — Norodom Sihanouk, king of Cambodia, in a statement on October 22 declared that Cambodia is strongly opposed to the attempt of some people in Phnom Penh to establish diplomatic relations with the South Korean puppets and will have diplomatic relations only with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The statement said:

The second Kingdom of Cambodia has diplomatic relations with the DPRK. But some people are seeking to recognize "Seoul" as well.

King Sihanouk is strongly opposed to such attempt.

This is our stand at present.

Japan's 'Outline of New Defence Program' Viewed

*SK3010103595 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1016 GMT 30 Oct 95*

["What Is Japan's 'Outline of New Defence Program' For?" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, October 30 (KCNA) — The "Outline of New Defence Program," which the Japanese reactionaries plan to adopt as Japan's post-Cold War military guidelines, is a military strategy for overseas aggression and a product of the overseas aggrandizement policy of the Japanese militarists, declares NODONG SINMUN Sunday [29 October].

The paper says in a signed article:

The Japanese Government claims they decided to adopt new military guidelines in order to reduce the Armed

Forces and cope with "threat" from "instability" in the surrounding situation. This is, however, a sophism to conceal the aggressive nature of the "Outline of New Defence Program" and justify their militarist policy.

The "Outline of New Defence Program" is an aggressive military strategy to realise the Japanese militarists' ambition for overseas aggression and expansion.

Its main purpose is to modernise the Armed Forces, enhance their military operability and prepare the "Self-Defence Forces" (SDF) for any kind of war. To this end, the Japanese reactionaries plan to increase military spending drastically, boost the defence industries extensively, reorganise and redeploy the "SDF" for war of aggression and modernise military equipment.

What is noteworthy in the "Outline of New Defence Program" is that they threw away the nominal defensive character of the "SDF" and overtly revealed the offensive character.

"Reduction" of the "SDF" and "rational deployment" of units mean redeployment of the units to suit the replacement of the preceding "overall defence strategy" with an attack strategy.

Their arms cutback is nothing but "return" to the United States of some useless weapons they received from the U.S. forces at the time of the formation of the "SDF."

After the end of the Cold War, the Japanese reactionaries are forming and redeploying their armed forces and modernizing military hardware, presupposing that the situation in the surrounding nations may be "destabilised" and especially a military conflict may break out on the Korean peninsula.

As a matter of fact, this means that they will make an excuse for reinvasion and involve themselves in war of aggression.

Japan has long since worked out a war plan to invade Korea, trained the "SDF," drummed militarism into the minds of the people and watched for a chance to invade Korea.

The aggressive nature of the Japanese militarists remains unchanged and is getting more vicious with the passage of time.

Spokesman on Resumption of Talks With Japan

SK3010035395 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0249 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, October 30 (KCNA) — The spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was interviewed by KCNA today as regards the Japanese foreign minister's recent remarks concerning DPRK-Japan relations.

The spokesman said:

Speaking at the Foreign Affairs's Committee of the House of Councillors on October 19, Foreign Minister Yohei Kono said Japan wants to resume talks with the DPRK without any preconditions, but it feels apprehensions as to the DPRK's position in the international arena including the United Nations and the Non-aligned Movement [NAM].

Our position in the UN and NAM summit is a matter of principle.

It has nothing to do with Japan's having talks with the DPRK without preconditions.

We pay attention to Japan's recent official announcement that it will approach to the talks without any preconditions.

If the hostile relations are to be removed between the two countries, diplomatic relations should be established as early as possible.

If so, the two countries may deepen mutual understanding and expand cooperation not only in the international arena but in different fields.

Consistent and firm is the DPRK's stand seeking the liquidation of the unhappy relations and establishment of good neighbouring and friendly relations between the two countries.

In view of the ongoing contact for the resumption of the DPRK- Japan talks, the ball has already been in the court of the Japanese side.

Everything depends on how Japan will take the next step.

Kim Chong-il Sends Wreath to Grave of Mao's Son

SK2510133295 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1033 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, October 25 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent wreaths to the grave of Mao Anying, son of the great leader of the Chinese people Comrade Mao Zedong, and the cemeteries of the fallen fighters of the Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) in Hoechang County, South Pyongan Province on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the entry of the CPV into the Korean war.

The wreaths were laid before the grave and cemeteries today.

Written in the ribbons hanging from the wreaths were words reading "To Comrade Mao Anying, son of the intimate comrade-in-arms of the Korean people Comrade Mao Zedong" and "Everlasting glory to the fallen fighters of the Chinese People's Volunteers !"

Yi Chong-ok Meets With PRC Artistes Group

SK2510223395 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1511 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, October 25 (KCNA) — Vice-President Yi Chong-ok today met and had a friendly talk with the Chinese famous artistes' group on a visit to Korea on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the entry of the Chinese People's Volunteers into the Korean war.

PRC Embassy, Delegation Lay Wreaths at Tower

SK2510234095 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1518 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, October 25 (KCNA) — The Chinese Embassy in Pyongyang and the delegation of former Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV) led by Colonel General Shi Yuxiao, political commissar of the Guangzhou Military District of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, laid wreaths at the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery on Mt. Taesong and the Friendship Tower today to mark the 45th anniversary of the entry of the CPV into the Korean war.

The participants laid wreaths and paid a silent tribute to the martyrs.

The embassy and the delegation also laid wreaths at the cemetery of the CPV fallen fighters in Hoechang County, South Pyongan Province.

The Chinese Embassy and the Central Committee of the Association of Chinese Residents in Korea laid wreaths at the cemetery of the CPV fallen fighters in Hyongjesan District, Pyongyang. The famous Artistes' Group of China laid flowers at the Revolutionary Martyrs Cemetery on Mt. Taesong and the Friendship Tower.

Remains of British Soldier Unearthed, Delivered

SK3010040095 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0245 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Panmunjom, October 30 (KCNA) — Remains of British soldier were delivered at Panmunjom on Monday, which were recently unearthed in the northern half of Korea by a humanitarian measure of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Senior Colonel Pak Nim-su, deputy chief of the Panmunjom mission of the Korean People's Army, and Brigadier of the British Army Colin D. Parr [name as received], who are representatives of the two sides authorized by their governments, met on the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] in the Panmunjom Conference Hall area.

Members of the British side came across the MDL and confirmed in detail the remains of J. Edmonds (S.N. 22459535), a recruit of the British Army who died in the northern half of Korea during the last Korean war.

Then our side delivered the remains to the British side.

Brigadier Colin D. Parr of the British Army signed a document for the delivery of the remains and expressed thanks to the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for its sincere unearthing and delivery of the remains.

Ponghwa Bureau Achieves Export 'Innovations'

SK3010094495 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean
2200 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Upholding the party's trade-first policy, the working class of the Ponghwa General Bureau continue to achieve great innovations in producing export goods.

A station reporter interviewed (Yu Myong-ryong), vice director of the Ponghwa General Bureau, on this:

[Begin Yu recording] The working class of the Ponghwa General Bureau, who significantly observed the 50th anniversary of the founding of the party by having the great leader [yongdoja] General Kim Chong-il at the grand festival of October, continue to effect upsurges in the production of export goods.

With the pride of having overfulfilled the yearly assignments in September, the working class of the Nagwon Clothing Company; the Mangyongdae Clothing Company; the Ongnyu Clothing Company; the Ponghwa Export Clothing Company; the Changgwang Export Clothing Plant; and the Export and Import Goods Management Office continue to achieve good results in October.

As of 23 October, the working class of the Nagwon Clothing Company have overfulfilled this month's assignment by 120.6 percent. The working class of the Changgwang Export Clothing plant have also overfulfilled this month's assignment by 100.2 percent. The working class of the Ponghwa Export Clothing Company have overfulfilled monthly plan by 120 percent.

In addition to this, many plants, including the Ponghui Clothing Company and the Mangyongdae Clothing

Company, are vigorously expediting their monthly assignments at final stage.

At all the plants and companies under the general bureau, the functionaries are organizing work down to the last detail in conformity with the demands of the Taean Work System. Upholding high the party's trade-first policy, all of our working people are rising up to improve the quality of the export goods and to thoroughly meet the delivery date.

We are firmly resolved to staunchly defend the chuche socialist country, our fatherland, which has been glorified by the respected and beloved [kyongaehanun] General Kim Chong-il and was founded by the great leader [suryongnim], by vigorously effecting upsurges in the production of export goods. [end recording]

Kim Chong-il Thanks 'Model Lecturers' at Units

SK2510055995 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0424 GMT 25 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, October 25 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il commended Yu Taek-chun of the Ministry of Public Security, Cho Tong-son of the Pyongyang Coal Mining Machinery Factory, Pak Chae-kum of the Hyesan Disabled Soldiers' Daily Necessities Factory, Kang Pil-yo of the Haeju Shoe-making Factory and Choe Sun-pok of the Kaesong Sewing Thread Mill for their contributions as model lecturers to arming the party members and other working people firmly with the revolutionary idea of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK].

He sent thanks to lecturers of different units, including Yun Song-ki.

He also sent thanks to the South Hamgyong Provincial Committee of the WPK, the Korean Central Telecommunications Office, the Yi Pok-nam Management Office, the Pak Chong-yuk Construction Company and the materials supply agency under the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications for their active contributions to the modernisation of post and telecommunication service.

Kim Il-song's 'Exploit' in Building WPK Noted

SK3010064595 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0255 GMT 30 Oct 95

["President Kim Il-song's Exploit in Building WPK as Mass Party" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, October 30 (KCNA) — NODONG SINMUN Sunday says the most brilliant exploit of the great leader President Kim Il-song is that he built the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) as a party of the masses.

In his famous work "The Workers' Party of Korea Is the Party of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song," the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il said one of the immortal exploits of President Kim Il-song is that he built the WPK as a party rooted among the broad segments of the people.

The paper says in a by-lined article:

The line of building a mass party is President Kim Il-song's unique line of building a chuche-type party.

This theory is based on the chuche revolutionary principle that the masses of the people are the masters of the revolution and construction and they are also the motive force of the revolution and construction.

This theory enables the working-class party to promote the revolution and construction, finding itself deeply rooted among the masses and united with them.

Only when the working-class party is firmly united with the masses and enjoys their active support, can it become an invincible party.

Basing himself on the line of building a mass party, President Kim Il-song built a chuche-type revolutionary party, which defends the interests of the popular masses and consists of the advanced elements from among the workers, peasants and working intellectuals.

In his work, Comrade Kim Chong-il related how wisely President Kim Il-song led the effort to carry out the line of building a mass party after putting it forward.

President Kim Il-song ensured that advanced elements from among the workers, peasants and working intellectuals were admitted to the party in a positive way and the quantitative increase of the party ranks was properly combined with their qualitative consolidation, so that the working-class, revolutionary character of the party could be maintained.

The WPK has strengthened as a mass party consisting of advanced elements from among the workers, peasants and working intellectuals. The flag of the WPK bearing a hammer, a sickle and an ink-brush reflects the revolutionary character of the WPK, which is made up of the working class as well as peasants and working intellectuals.

This flag, provided by President Kim Il-song, is a shining symbol of the revolutionary party in the era of independence and a banner of unity and victory for the popular masses who shape their destiny independently.

More Reports on Farms Accelerating Threshing

SK3010053895

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of news reports on the work of hauling sheaves of rice and rice threshing carried by Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean and Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean.

At 2100 GMT on 26 October, Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean carries an one-minute report on cooperative farms in Nampo threshing 8 percent of rice of their total target per day. The report says that the Songgwan Cooperative Farm in Waudo District concentrated all strength on the work of hauling sheaves of rice and rice threshing, and thus, have already threshed 84 percent of rice of its total target. It also carries a brief report that agricultural workers and volunteers of Pyongwon County are achieving high results daily in the work of hauling sheaves of rice. The report says that in this county, sheaves of rice are being hauled daily from 800 to 900 chongbo [1 chongbo=2.45 acres] of rice fields, and over 50 percent of sheaves of rice have already been hauled.

At 1200 GMT on 27 October, Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean carries an one-minute report on cooperative farms in Sakju County accelerating the work of hauling sheaves of rice and rice threshing on a full scale. It also carries an one-minute report on cooperative farms in Changpung County vigorously accelerating the work of hauling sheaves of rice and rice threshing. The report says that on average, the county is hauling over 7 percent of sheaves of rice daily and the work of rice threshing is 5 to 7 percent of its total target. The report concludes by saying that at the Puhwa Cooperative Farm in Taedoksan, the work of hauling sheaves of rice and rice threshing targets are being overfulfilled by 120 percent daily. Then, it carries a brief report on cooperative farms in North Hwanghae Province planting green manure crops to enhance soil fertility of the cultivated land. The report says that during the past several days, the province planted green manure crops on the thousands chongbo of fields. The reports says that green manure crops were planted on 439 chongbo of fields at cooperative farms in Pyongsan County; some 370 chongbo of fields in Unpa County; and some 309 chongbo of fields in Insan County.

At 1100 GMT on 27 October, Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean carries four brief reports on the Chongsan Cooperative Farm in Kangso District, the Chongjong Cooperative Farm in Chongdan County, the Hyongsan Cooperative Farm in Hyongjesan District, and the Ponggang Cooperative Farm in Kangnyong County that they are accelerating the work of hauling sheaves of rice and rice threshing. The report says that the Chongsan Cooperative Farm is threshing 90 tonnes of rice daily, and that on average, the functionaries and workers of the Ponggang Cooperative Farm are hauling sheaves of rice by 1.2 times more daily, compared with the same period of last year. The report says that the Ponggang Cooperative Farm is in its last stage of harvesting sweet potato.

At 2100 GMT on 27 October, Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean carries a brief report on cooperative farms in South Hwanghae Province accelerating rice threshing daily by operating their threshing machines at full capacity. The report says that as of 22 October, about 50 percent of the work on threshing rice of its total target have been completed in Pyoksong County. The report also says cooperative farms in Ongjin County, Chongdan County, and Kangnyong County each completed 42-45 percent of rice threshing of their targets by operating their threshing machines at full capacity. It also carries a 3-minute report on functionaries and agricultural workers of cooperative farms in Yomju County in North Pyongan Province achieving innovations in hauling sheaves of rice and rice threshing by highly upholding the party's policy that agriculture is best. The report cites a station reporter's interview with the chief engineer of the economic committee of the county cooperative farm and the chairman of the management office of the Yongbuk Cooperative Farm who is deputy of the Supreme People's Assembly, on how they are working to accelerate the work of hauling sheaves of rice and rice threshing, and says that everyday, the county is hauling sheaves of rice from about 600 chongbo fields and 1,500-2,000 tonnes of rice are being threshed. It then carries a brief report on cooperative farms in Singi County in North Hwanghae Province hauling 250 chongbo of sheaves of rice daily.

At 2200 GMT on 27 October, Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean carries a brief report on cooperative farms in Ullyul County in South Hwanghae Province hauling 5 percent of sheaves of rice of the total rice field daily.

At 2100 GMT on 28 October, Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean carries a brief report on cooperative farms in Onsong County in South Pyongan Province accelerating the work of rice threshing. The report says the 3 June Cooperative Farm threshed some 700 tonnes of rice and that the Songyun and Mayong Cooperative Farms threshed some 500 tonnes of rice respectively. It also carries a 2-minute report on functionaries and agricultural workers of the Yongok Cooperative Farm in Taedong County accelerating the work of hauling sheaves of rice and rice threshing. The report cites a station reporter's meeting with the chairman of the manager of this cooperative farm and the captain of the No. 5 work team of the three revolutions' red flag on how they are working to achieve innovations in hauling sheaves of rice and rice threshing by mobilizing various transportation means, and then notes that their determination to complete these works by early November to give happiness and satisfaction to the respected and beloved general.

At 2200 GMT on 28 October, Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean carries a brief report on cooperative farms in South Pyongan Province achieving innovations in the work of hauling sheaves of rice and rice threshing.

At 1100 GMT on 29 October, Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean carries three brief reports on the Ojon Cooperative Farm in Myongchon County, the Sinsong Cooperative Farm in Kaepung County, and the Masan Cooperative Farm in Taedong County accelerating to complete the work on hauling sheaves of rice and rice threshing ahead of schedule.

At 1200 GMT on 29 October, Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean carries a brief report on farms in Kaesong planting autumn wheat and barley along with the work of hauling sheaves of rice and rice threshing. The report says that autumn barley was planted on some 280 chongbo of fields.

South Korea

DPRK Warned of Further International Isolation

SK2810022995 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 28 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The South Korean Government yesterday warned against North Korea that its action to send armed agents to the South will only invite further isolation and condemnation from the world community.

"It also runs directly against the current global trend towards the coexistence of all nations in the post-Cold War era," Information Minister O In-hwan said in a statement.

The statement was issued following an urgent meeting of concerned Cabinet ministers in connection with the recent provocations by the communist North Korean Government. [passage omitted]

'Partial Conclusion' of Reactor Pact Viewed

SK3010101695 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 30 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by reporter Ko Tae-song]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is highly likely that our position will not be reflected in negotiations between North Korea and the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization [KEDO] on the provision of light-water reactors to North Korea.

It was learned on 29 October that the KEDO delegation plans to reach a general principle of the reactor supply contract during the upcoming negotiations with North Korea and to hold separate negotiations to conclude a follow-up agreement on the details to be attached to the contract.

The draft general principle of the contract for providing light-water reactors specifies nothing about special inspections to verify the transparency of North Korea's nuclear activities. It also includes an ambiguous expression on the issue concerning auxiliary facilities of light-water reactors, leaving the possibility of the KEDO's concession during separate negotiations in the future.

This is far from what our government originally intended, and people are concerned about the possibility that the expected incomplete and partial conclusion of the reactor supply contract will compel the ROK government to shoulder additional financial burden.

Our government has made clear and adhered to its position that the reactor supply contract should specify the date of special inspections and include an item on the details of auxiliary facilities.

In this regard, a government official stated: "The KEDO has decided to pursue a partial conclusion of the contract during the forthcoming negotiations because North Korea has resumed threatening to unfreeze its nuclear activities while saying that the deadline for signing the contract is over." The official continued by saying: "Our government is opposed to the KEDO decision, but is overwhelmed by the U.S. and Japanese position that demands an early conclusion of the reactor supply contract."

North Korea and the KEDO will resume high-level talks on the conclusion of the reactor supply contract in New York on 30 October. It seems that the talks will be the peak of negotiations, as well as an important turning point toward the conclusion of the negotiations.

DPRK Forward Deploys 40 Warplanes Near DMZ

SK3010043095 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 30 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Kang Yong-won]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was learned on 29 October that North Korea has forward deployed 40 Air Force aircraft to frontline areas adjacent to the DMZ. In response to this, the ROK-U.S. intelligence authorities are reportedly keenly watching developments in North Korea by stepping up reconnaissance activities.

A government source disclosed that "40 North Korean aircraft including MiG-20s were moved forward from the bases in the rear to a ready airfield in the frontline," and added that "it is not certain whether this movement is for an exercise or redeployment. Thus, both the ROK and U.S armies are stepping up reconnaissance activities by increasing the number of reconnaissance flights by U-2 planes."

The source further said that "even if it were not for the exercise, this deployment is unprecedented in light of its scale. The military is currently analyzing its purpose."

It was also learned that the aircraft recently forward deployed by North Korea are mostly outmoded models, such as MiG-21s, MiG-19s, and MiG-17s.

North Officials 'Secretly' Contact Japan for Aid

SK3010014395 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2325 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learned that two executive-level North Korean officials, who were invited to attend Japan-DPRK cultural festivals now being held in Kyoto and other areas in Japan, are secretly contacting executive-level officials of Japan's ruling party.

Japan's SANKEI SHIMBUN reported on its front page as topical news that these North Korean officials were the very figures who acted as agents requesting Japanese rice for North Korea. They came to Japan at the invitation of Japan's ruling party, and are presently holding secret contacts with its high-ranking officials.

Correspondent Yi Il-hwa reports on this from Tokyo.

[Begin Yi recording] The North Korean officials, who are secretly in contact with Japan's ruling party officials after coming to Japan to attend Japan-DPRK cultural festivals, are Kim Kyong-nam, a member of the Standing Committee of North Korea's Asia-Pacific Peace Committee, and one other person.

SANKEI SHIMBUN reported today that Kim Kyong-nam, who came to Japan at the invitation of Japan's ruling party, was the very official who acted as an agent requesting rice aid last April.

These two officials came to Japan as leaders of the North Korean cultural group which is now attending DPRK-Japan cultural festivals held in five cities in Japan, including Kyoto, from 17 October. However, they did not attend any performance but are holding external contacts.

An official related to Japan-DPRK relations said that another North Korean official, other than Kim Kyong-nam, visited Japan last spring, and that high-level officials in Japan's ruling party are giving attention to ensuring the DPRK visitors' personal safety.

Meanwhile, the Japanese Foreign Ministry officials noted that since Japan offered rice on two occasions, the surplus rice North Korea imported for an emergency has been used up, and that further rice support to North Korea is thus impossible.

However, relevant sources observe that these North Korean officials visited Japan for secret contacts with top-ranking officials of Japan's ruling party for a third round of rice aid. The Japanese Government and ruling party are greatly interested in resuming negotiations for the establishment of diplomatic relations with North Korea. However, North Korea has been sternly denouncing the Japanese side for outrageous remarks made by Prime Minister Murayama on 5 October. Thus, the current contacts are attracting people's attention. [end recording]

Japan Reverses North Normalization Talks Policy

SK3010012995 Seoul YONHAP in English 0117 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, Oct. 30 (YONHAP) — Japan, considering its worsening diplomatic row with South Korea and North Korea's increasing denunciations in spite of its rice aid, is reversing its policy to seek an early resumption of the suspended normalization talks with the communist country.

Sources close to the Foreign Ministry and the South Korean Embassy said Sunday that the Japanese Government, taking into account Seoul's censure of Tokyo's attempt to resume normalization talks with Pyongyang without prior consultation with South Korea, would not respond to any North Korean offer to resume the negotiations for the time being.

North Korea's increasing denunciations of Japan, including its refusal to grant Japan observer status at the recent meeting of nonaligned nations, in spite of Japan's rice aid, is also prompting this shift in Japan's North Korea policy, they remarked.

Japan cannot overlook South Korean President Kim Yong-sam's open censure of Japan for its leaders' remarks justifying Japan's colonial rule of the peninsula, and in particular for Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's recent remarks that the treaty establishing Japan's annexation of Korea in 1910 was concluded in a legal manner, they said.

Tokyo thus appears to be taking into consideration the developments in inter-Korean relations, such as the resumption of inter-Korean dialogue, and in North Korea's Japan policy before resuming normalization talks with the reclusive communist country, they observed.

North Envoy to PRC on 'Constant Friendly' Ties

SK3010144995 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1435 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Chu Chang-chun, North Korean ambassador to the PRC, held a news conference at the North Korean Embassy in Beijing this afternoon, saying: President Jiang Zemin's participation in the ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Workers Party of Korea proved the constant friendly relations between North Korea and the PRC. He stated he would not attach particular significance to President Jiang Zemin's visit to the ROK.

Deep Regret Expressed Over French Nuclear Test

SK2810022295 Seoul YONHAP in English 0203 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Oct. 28 (YONHAP) — The South Korean Government "cannot help but express deep regret and disappointment" over France's recent underground nuclear test in the South Pacific, its third this year, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

A statement released by the ministry noted that South Korea's position to stand firm against all nuclear testing by nations with nuclear capabilities was clearly conveyed to the international community by Foreign Minister Kong No-myong on various occasions, including the 50th General Assembly of the United Nations on Sept. 28.

The statement urged France to "respond to the concerns and demands of the international community by bringing an immediate end to further nuclear testing."

President Kim Yong-sam Returns to Seoul 28 Oct

SK2810094895 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0900 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Kim Yong-sam returned home this afternoon after winding up his visit to Canada and the United Nations. President Kim Yong-sam delivered a homecoming speech at the airport, saying he reconfirmed during his visit to Canada and the United Nations that many countries and the United Nations highly appraised the ROK, and that their interest in and hopes for the ROK were also very high. He stressed that such high interest and hope of the international community serves as a challenge, as well as an opportunity.

President Kim said that working toward globalization and making the country first-rate is the only way to properly cope with the challenge and opportunity, and stressed that the globalization campaign should be more vigorously adopted in various sectors of state administration in order to enhance national competitiveness and consistently foster national strength. President Kim stressed that we should fulfill the ROK's role and responsibilities in accordance with our ability, so that the ROK becomes more respected in the international community.

President Kim left the country on 16 October for Canada as a state guest, and attended the special world summit commemorating the 50th anniversary of the United Nations beginning 20 October. He made a stopover in Hawaii on his way home.

No Tae-u's Statement Apologizes for Secret Fund

SK2810024895 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 28 Oct 95 p 2

["Unofficial translation" of statement by former President No Tae-u on 27 October from his home in Seoul apologizing for his secret political fund]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] I, No Tae-u, stand here shamefully in front of the people. Just standing here makes me feel ashamed and battered beyond expression. I have no face to say anything because I ruthlessly betrayed the expectations of the people.

Fellow citizens, I can imagine the extent of disappointment and rage you felt during the past several days. It is natural for the people to vent their rage and criticism against me. I am not here to solicit the people for a pardon for my wrongdoing. I am here only to make a sincere statement over the "governing fund" issue which brought insurmountable shock to the people, and express my apologies.

It may be taken as an excuse, but raising the "governing fund," though illegitimate, was an aged practice of our politics.

While I was in office, it was inevitable, given our political culture and election atmospheres. I am not saying that my acts should be forgiven because it was a known practice, and I was in an inevitable situation.

I take complete responsibility for failing to reject it.

During my five-year term, the "governing fund" amounting to about 500 billion won was raised.

A majority of this fund, raised mainly through donations from entrepreneurs, had been used under my responsibility in political activities, including the political party's operational expenses.

The fund was partly spent to take care of the underprivileged and encourage those devoting themselves to the country.

As president of the ruling party, and state president who is obliged to take charge of all aspects of national administration, I could not turn a deaf ear to them.

I firmly made up my mind not to waste a penny in consideration of the sincerity of entrepreneurs who donated the money in spite of difficult situations.

The remnants of the "governing fund" which I had used for these purposes reached 170 billion won when I finished my term.

The reason why this enormous amount of money was left was mainly because the political landscape changed, with a neutral Cabinet being inaugurated in connection with the presidential election.

The huge amount of money would be of no use to someone who will return to being an ordinary citizen.

Regardless of whether a penny remains or not, it was natural to return it to the country and society to make use of it for righteous purposes. Although I made up my mind to do so, I lost the chance because the situation prevented me from doing it.

In retrospect, it was foolish.

The raising of the "governing fund" itself deserves criticism, but my failure to spend it for the country and people was even worse.

I am entirely responsible for this.

I am willing to accept any judgment reached by the people.

I am prepared to receive any form of punishment, even stoning.

If necessary, I will turn myself in to authorities to cooperate with the investigation.

However, my only wish is that my unpardonable deed would not hurt anyone else besides me.

Especially, I wish that this will not discourage the enthusiasm of our entrepreneurs who devoted themselves day and night to overcome heated international competition.

Dear citizens, I have nothing more to say as a man who left deep scars in the pride of the Republic of Korea and the people.

At this very moment, I am immensely shameful of having been the president.

I will do anything to take away the bruises of the people and atone for my misdeeds.

Once again, I kneel down in front of the people and express my deep apologies.

NCNP Demands President Discuss Money From No

SK2810012695 Seoul YONHAP in English
0116 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Oct. 28 (YONHAP) — The main opposition National Congress for New Politics (NCNP) demanded Saturday that President Kim Yong-sam make public the total amount of money he allegedly received from former president No Tae-u when he was chairman of the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) and later the DLP's standard-bearer in the 1992 presidential election.

NCNP spokesman Pak Chi-won, saying No's public apology Friday cannot but be seen as a ploy directed by the government to cover up the funds President Kim used during the presidential election, urged law enforcement authorities to interrogate No about how he raised the secret political fund which he revealed in a public apology and where he used them.

President Kim should disclose before the people how much he received from No for use as DLP operating funds and how much went to his election campaign in 1992, Pak said.

Unless he makes the disclosure, Kim will face more severe public criticism than No is encountering now, he warned.

Minor opposition United Liberal Democrats (ULD) Spokesman An Sung-yol called on No to make another, genuine apology, arguing his apology Friday was superficial and not sincere.

No must clear up all suspicions surrounding his secret fund by disclosing how he raised the money, whether he forced businesses to donate political funds or accepted kickbacks in connection with big government-funded projects and how much he received from his predecessor Chon Tu-hwan in the 1987 presidential election in his next apology, he said.

Prosecution Decides To Confiscate No's Fund

*SK2810012595 Seoul YONHAP in English
0036 GMT 28 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Oct. 28 (YONHAP) — The prosecution decided Saturday it will take necessary steps to confiscate the "secret fund" of former President No Tae-u in accordance with the "special case law on crimes committed by public officials."

Thus the prosecution will soon take steps to confiscate the 170 billion won (about 222 million U.S. dollars) which No said Friday remains unused.

The prosecution said it made the decision after determining that the public's anger about No's secret fund scandal is growing since the former president did not express the intention to donate his secret fund voluntarily to the state Friday.

A senior prosecutor said, "In accordance with the special case law, the prosecution can take steps to freeze the 170 billion won secret fund for confiscation even before it indicts No and can then confiscate the fund later through a trial."

He said that the prosecution plans to seize No's secret fund regardless of his intentions.

If No forfeits the fund, he will be the first public servant in South Korea to ever relinquish property because of criminal activity.

The special case law on crimes committed by public officials was enacted Jan. 5 this year and has not yet been applied to any specific case.

Kim Chong-pil Declines Comment on Secret Fund

*SK2810025095 Seoul YONHAP in English
0225 GMT 28 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Oct. 28 (YONHAP) — Kim Chong- pil, president of the opposition United Liberal Democrats (ULD), on Saturday refused to comment on an opposition lawmaker's allegation that he owned a bank account holding 10 billion won during the days of his chairmanship of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party.

"You should discuss things only at the proper time. This is not the proper time for me to comment on the issue," Kim said.

Rep. Pak Kye-tong of the Democratic Party claimed Friday afternoon that a prosecutor found Kim Chong-pil's account containing 10 billion won while tracing the flow of illicit political funds at Donghwa bank in early 1993.

When reporters continued to ask if he owned such an account, the 70-year-old politician said, "Even confucius came to realize worldly providence only after reaching 70 years old. When you become my age you will realize you cannot always handle worldly things the way you wish."

Government Considers Probing No's Funds Abroad

*SK2810095095 Seoul YONHAP in English
0901 GMT 28 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Oct. 28 (YONHAP) — The government will start investigation into the slush fund of former President No Tae-u allegedly funneled to overseas banks if the government secures hard evidence to support the allegation, an official of the Ministry of Finance and Economy said Saturday.

"If the government can secure hard evidence supporting the allegation that a man of power illegaly funneled his dirty money to foreign countries, the government will start investigation of the allegation, although it has never investigated allegations involving secret funneling of slush funds to overseas financial institutions including Swiss banks by Koreans," the official said.

He said that the existing foreign currency control law stipulates that any money secretly funneled to overseas without due procedures be confiscated, adding that "It is natural that even a man of power cannot be an exception to the law."

Prosecution Decides To Question Hanbo Chairman

*SK3010031495 Seoul YONHAP in English
0300 GMT 30 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Oct. 30 (YONHAP) — The prosecution, confirming that Chairman Chong Tae-su of the Hanbo Group was deeply involved in former president No Tae-u's secret fund scandal, will shortly summon him for questioning.

In September 1993, only a month after the real-name financial transaction system was enacted, Chong illegally shifted the 33 billion won (43 million U.S. dollars) No deposited in two false-name accounts at the Donghwa Bank in 1991 to his company's account for safekeeping in consideration of the new system, according to the prosecution.

Obtaining from Yi Tae-chin, who served as accountant at the Presidential Security Office during No's tenure, the information that former president had two false-name accounts opened at the Donghwa Bank, the prosecution identified the two false names as "Songsan-hoe" and "Chongrim-hoe" and found that the funds in these two accounts were shifted to an account Chong opened under his company's name immediately after the real-name system was implemented.

An official said the prosecution would summon not only Chong but also his financial officers for questioning about the transferred funds.

The prosecution will also summon for questioning business tycoons suspected of having donated political funds to the former president after the initial interview of No is conducted sometime in the next few days.

The summoning of business tycoons will be somewhat delayed because prosecutors are busy making preparations to question the former president, but they will be called after No is interviewed the official remarked.

The prosecution has also confirmed that ex-lawmaker Yi Won-cho, who served as bank superintendent during No's presidency, helped the former head of state collect political funds from businesses and is studying plans to summon him for questioning.

Yi was found to have played a middleman's role in No's collection of 2 billion-10 billion won from each business group, another official added.

If the funds No collected from businesses are found to be bribes or kickbacks in exchange for awarding big government contracts, Yi, as well as No, would be charged with bribery, he observed.

In April 1993, the prosecution started investigating Yi on suspicion that in 1992 he accepted 200 million won from then Donghwa Bank President An Yong-mo in exchange for his influence in getting An appointed to a second term as the bank's head, but the investigation was suspended as Yi fled the country.

Cardinal Urges 'Thorough Probe' Into No's Fund

SK3010125995 Seoul YONHAP in English
1255 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Oct. 30 (YONHAP) — Stephen Cardinal Kim Su-hwan on Monday afternoon called for a thorough probe into the secret fund stashed by former President No Tae-u, stressing that all those involved should be meted out punishment.

In a speech at an alumni session of the Graduate School of Public Administration, Yonsei University held at Choson Hotel, the cardinal said Mr. No should admit to his mistake and truly repent.

Stating all the people are outraged at the incident, Cardinal Kim said politicians should feel responsible for a political climate that gave birth to the case and take the lead in making the polluted air clean.

He said the occurrence of the incident and the recent major disasters in succession stems from the upsetting of the social sense of value, that is, pursuit of money and power ahead of humanity.

"All of us should reflect on our selfishness and try to recover true love, consciousness, honesty and sincerity," the cardinal said.

Assemblyman: No Accepted Money for Golf Permits

SK3010102495 Seoul YONHAP in English
1016 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Oct. 30 (YONHAP) — An opposition lawmaker asserted Monday former President No Tae-u pocketed 340 billion won by giving firms or individual people permits to create new golf courses.

"I understand No took 5 billion won for a golf course permit he gave and he issued 68 golf course permits during the term of his office — 23 in 1989 and 45 in 1990," Rep. Pak Sok-mu of the Democratic Party [DP] said.

While meeting with reporters at the National Assembly, Pak said that Chang Pyong-cho, Chongwadae [presidential offices] secretary for culture and sports affairs, pressured relevant officials into revising the regulations on the management of golf courses to facilitate the mass issuance of new golf course permits.

Saying that Chang was arrested in connection with the Suso scandal in 1991, Rep. Pak said the Suso incident should be investigated anew to shed light on the suspected flow of a large secret fund raised through the affair into the pocket of No and his wife.

President on Possible Legal Action Against No

SK3010003895 Seoul YONHAP in English
0023 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Oct. 30 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam on Monday suggested that stern legal action will be taken against his immediate predecessor No Tae-u if the latter is found to have illegally accumulated secret funds in the ongoing prosecution's probe of the slush fund scandal.

The chief executive told a breakfast meeting Monday with Prime Minister Yi Hong-ku, cabinet members, his Chief Sectetary Han Sung-su and other senior secretaries that, "The principle that all are equal before the law must be demonstrated to the people through a fair, just and stringent investigation of the scandal by the prosecution."

Kim declared that the moral integrity of his civilian government will be displayed through the disposition of the secret fund scandal and stressed the need to uproot collusion between political parties, both ruling and opposition, and businesses, Chongwadae [presidential offices] officials said.

"Irregularities like collusion between politic groups [as received] and businesses have been taken for granted as common practices in the past, but they will no longer be tolerated," Kim was quoted as saying.

Attributing the surfacing of the secret fund scandal to the real- name financial transaction system, Kim instructed the cabinet "to have the real-name system take a firmer root in the future so as to eradicate the possibility of accumulating slush funds."

Following the breakfast meeting, President Kim met with Prime Minister Yi separately at the presidential office to hear a detailed report on the slush fund scandal and other developments that took place during his absence from the country.

At a luncheon meeting Monday with the leaders of the three branches of government and of the ruling and opposition parties, the head of state will reportedly reaffirm his intent to thoroughly probe the secret fund scandal involving former president No, leaving no sanctuary, and to deal with the scandal in accordance with the law as well as brief them on the outcome of his recent visit to Canada and the United Nations.

No Tae-u Submits Documents on Secret Slush Fund

*SK3010030495 Seoul YONHAP in English
0245 GMT 30 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Oct. 30 (YONHAP) — The prosecutor general's office Monday started reviewing documents submitted by former president No Tae-u regarding his huge slush fund.

The prosecution received the documents from No's secretary Pak Yong-hun at around 9:55 am Monday.

Pak told reporters, "I received a yellow envelope containing the documents late Sunday afternoon at No's Yonhui-tong residence from lawyer Kim Yu-hu. I know nothing about the contents of the documents as I haven't seen them."

The documents submitted to the prosecution include details of his slush fund and copies of bank account statements where the money was deposited, according to prosecution sources.

In a statement to the people last Friday, No admitted to having amassed 500 billion won (652 million U.S. dollars) in secret political funds during his 1988-1993 reign and of not having used 170 billion won (222 million dollars) of them by the time he resigned.

Upon reviewing the submitted documents, the prosecution plans to summon No for questioning as early as Tuesday, a prosecution official said.

In a related development, the prosecutor general's office Monday uncovered that in 1992 No's former chief bodyguard Yi Hyon-u accepted 200 million won in bribes from An Yong-mo, then governor of Donghwa Bank.

The prosecution plans to prosecute Yi on bribery charges in due course, according to prosecution sources.

DLP Not To Make Public 1992 Campaign Finances

*SK2810064795 Seoul YONHAP in English
0540 GMT 28 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Oct. 28 (YONHAP) — The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) will not voluntarily make public the details of its 1992 presidential election campaign finances in connection with the secret fund scandal involving former president No Tae-u.

The party's decision came at a key postholders meeting on Saturday presided over by party chairman Kim Yun-hwan, informed party sources said. But the party will make a final decision after having consultations with the presidential office of Chongwadae [presidential offices] when President Kim Yong-sam returns home from an overseas trip Saturday afternoon.

The party's decision is noteworthy in that it contradicts earlier remarks made by Chairman Kim and Secretary-General Kang Sam-chae who had expressed their party's willingness to reveal details of the fund which was allegedly used in support of 1992 presidential candidates.

DLP chairman Kim admitted last Thursday that former president No contributed to the election campaign finances of the ruling and opposition parties' candidates.

Party spokesman Rep. Son Hak-kyu said, "We have neither a responsibility nor a duty to make public the election campaign expenses even though particular politicians are demanding it."

He added that no legal problems have been raised thus far with regard to election campaign expenses.

Opposition Leaders To Skip President's Meeting

*SK3010015095 Seoul YONHAP in English
0131 GMT 30 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, Oct. 30 (YONHAP) — Opposition leaders Kim Tae-chung and Kim Chong-pil decided they will not attend a luncheon meeting at

Chongwadae Monday being hosted by President Kim Yong-sam who intended to brief them on his recent trip to Canada and the United Nations.

President Kim, who returned from the overseas trip last weekend, has invited opposition leaders and the chiefs of the three government branches for lunch to discuss the results of his overseas trip.

The major opposition National Congress for New Politics (NCNP) held a Guidance Committee meeting and decided that NCNP President Kim Tae-chung will not attend the Chongwadae luncheon "because the gathering will not deal with the recent political issue of the secret fund scandal involving former president No Tae-u."

The minor opposition United Liberal Democrats (ULD) also resolved at a party meeting that its president will not attend the Chongwadae meeting.

The opposition parties' decision foretells their intensified struggle against the government and the ruling party in the future, observers said.

Their absence from the meeting is being viewed as a strong protest against the ruling camp's recent decision not to voluntarily make public the details of its 1992 presidential election campaign expenses.

NCNP Spokesman Pak Chi-won said, "If President Kim meets with opposition leaders at this juncture, he should discuss with them how the government intends to resolve the issues of No's secret fund scandal and the 1992 presidential election campaign expenses. But the luncheon meeting will be a gathering where the opposition leaders will not be afforded an opportunity to make remarks."

He criticized the government for not responding to his party's request for a summit meeting between heads of ruling and opposition parties, saying, "The government is taking an arrogant attitude if it does not regard the opposition head as a partner of state administration."

Meanwhile, a ULD [United Liberal Democrats] spokesman said the Chongwadae [presidential offices] gathering has been arranged to merely have lunch and will not provide any opportunities for us to discuss important issues about the secret fund scandal and the election campaign expenses of 1992.

"If President Kim wants to explain the outcome of his recent trip to Canada and the United Nations, he can do it at the ongoing session of the National Assembly," he said.

Burma

Khin Nyunt on 'Unruly' Western Democratic Styles

BK2910092595 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, chairman of the Myanmar [Burma] Education Committee and secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], attended the closing ceremony of the Special Refresher Course No.19 for Basic Education School Teachers held at the Central Institute of Public Service's Training Hall in Hlegu where he delivered an address at 1100 today. [passage omitted on attendees]

First, Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt delivered an address. In his address, he says everyone knows that the SLORC has taken responsibility [for the state] without any choice because there were calls to bring complete reforms to the political, economic, and social systems of the state that was facing deterioration and destruction for various reasons. The SLORC, convinced that the internal strength of the brethren is our own strength, is building a new self-reliant nation without expecting support from foreign countries. All citizens must understand that as a nation under servitude for over 100 years, it can never exchange its independence — a national heritage that was achieved through resistance and the sacrifice of numerous lives by our grandfathers and grandmothers for over 100 years — for any kind of assistance and support from foreign countries. [passage omitted]

The procedures at the National Convention — that is working to lay down plans and covenants in unison that will ensure the long- term guarantee for the present political stability and national solidarity and for the emergence of a new enduring constitution that is essential to the country and based upon these covenants — have been completed to a considerable degree.

Myanmar, as a member of the international community, observes the basic principles in the UN Charters and actively participates in all UN movements and activities; but to preserve Myanmar and its people's national characteristics and national traits from becoming extinct, Myanmar cannot blindly accommodate unruly Western democratic styles and unjust human right standards that are based on different historical backgrounds and cultures and customs, and that are also completely incompatible to the [concept] of self-reliance. National and patriotic pride will be boosted only when national characters are preserved and maintained and Myanmar people will be able to stand with pride in the middle of the world community. [passage omitted]

SLORC Chairman Receives Laotian Minister

BK2710151595 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Senior General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and commander in chief of the Defense Services of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], received Lieutenant General Choummali Sai-gnason, defense minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and party, who are currently in Myanmar, at the Zeyathiri House's Defense Services Hall of the Ministry of Defense at 1100 today.

Together with Sr. Gen. Than Shwe were Lt. Gen. Min Thein, minister of SLORC chairman office; Rear Admiral Tin Aye, commander in chief of the Navy; Major General Tin Ngwe, commander in chief of the Air Force; Brigadier General Khin Maung Than, commander of the Yangon [Rangoon] Military Command; Brig. Gen. Saw Lwin, director general of the Military Training; U Nyunt Swe, deputy minister of foreign affairs; and Thura U Aung Htet, director general of the Protocol Department. The Laotian defense minister was accompanied by Mr. Ly Bounkham, Laotian ambassador to Myanmar.

Than Shwe Receives SRV Minister, Delegation

BK2610150295 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Senior General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] and commander in chief of the defense services, received the visiting interior minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Mr. Bui Thien Ngo, and delegation at the Defense Ministry's Dagon House at 1000 today.

Also present were Lieutenant General Mya Thinn, minister of home affairs; Colonel Tin Hlaing, deputy minister of home affairs; U Nyunt Swe, deputy minister of foreign affairs; Thura U Aung Htet, director general of Protocol Department; and Vietnamese Ambassador Mr. Tran Viet Tan.

NCGUB Responds to General Maung Aye's Speech

BK2910100995 (Internet) BurmaNet News in English 27 Oct 95

[Response to General Maung Aye's speech issued by the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma's Office of the UN Mission on 23 October]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In his address to the 50th Anniversary Special Commemorative Session of the

United Nations General Assembly [UNGA], General Maung Aye, Vice Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), supported the institution of the United Nations. He said, "There is no better alternative to the United Nations. In an increasingly interdependent world, the United Nations is the only forum for multi-lateral cooperation. I would like to reaffirm Myanmar's [Burma's] abiding faith in the United Nations as a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of universal peace and cooperation". General Maung Aye also renewed SLORC's commitment to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and pledged SLORC's continued cooperation with the United Nations.

The National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB), representing the will of the people of Burma as expressed in the 1990 general elections, welcomes SLORC's commitment to the UN and its pledge to cooperate with the world body which represents the international community.

Since 1991, the UN Commission on Human Rights and the UN General Assembly have consistently passed consensus resolutions calling on SLORC to honor the results of the 1990 elections, to accelerate the pace of democratization in Burma and to improve the human rights situation in Burma. The resolutions are consistent with the Charter of the United Nations which clearly states that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion. They are also consistent with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states that "the will of people shall be the basis of the authority of government".

SLORC cannot pledge to support the UN and at the same time claim that it has the right to ignore the will of the Burmese people as well as the will of the international community because the situation in Burma is an internal affair. Neither can General Maung Aye claim that to maintain international peace and security, the UN should not "internal affairs". [as received] The UN Secretary- General has stated in his "Agenda for Peace" that security does not merely mean the lack of military threat. Human Rights violations, poverty, humanitarian crises and natural disasters also threaten international peace and security. The current situation in Burma and SLORC's refusal to address them is beginning to threaten regional security. Given SLORC's professed commitment to the UN, the NCGUB calls on the international community to require SLORC to live up to its obligations.

The preamble of the UN Charter quoted by General Maung Aye in his speech obliges Member States, "to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours". It also calls for Member States not to use armed force and to establish conditions under which justice can be maintained. Given SLORC's systemic gross violation of human rights in Burma, its persecution of religious and ethnic minorities, its indiscriminate use of armed force to suppress dissent, and its blatant disregard for the territorial integrity of its neighbors, it is right that the UNGA should continue to express its concern about the situation in Burma.

The NCGUB would also like to remind General Maung Aye and SLORC that Article 6 of the UN Charter states that a Member State which persistently violates the principles contained in the Charter may be expelled from the UN by the General Assembly.

The NCGUB, therefore, calls on SLORC to make good without further delay, its commitment to the UN and its pledge to cooperate with it by fully implementing the UN resolutions. Since October 1994, the UN secretary-general has been trying to engage in a dialogue with SLORC about human rights situation in Burma in order to facilitate a dialogue between the Burmese military led by SLORC, the democracy movement led by Nobel Peace laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and ethnic leaders, as a means to national reconciliation. At the very least, SLORC should cooperate with the UN secretary-general and initiate a dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. October 23, 1995.

'Tentative' Cease-Fire With Khun Sa Reported

BK2710035495 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Oct 95 p 3

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Opium warlord Khun Sa has reached a tentative ceasefire agreement with Burmese government forces, a Thai army officer and a guerrilla official said yesterday.

The loose agreement, reached earlier this month, might avert a long-expected Burmese army offensive against the notorious Shan guerrilla commander, the Thai officer said.

"Khun Sa's delegates met the Burmese Army eastern commander in early October and both sides agreed to halt military operations. Khun Sa ordered his commanders to halt operations from October 15," he said.

Khun Sa commands the powerful Mong Tai Army [MTA] guerrilla force which operates in northeastern Burma's Shan State.

An MTA official confirmed the report but said as far as he knew the ceasefire was limited to eastern Shan State. "The MTA eastern commander Chao Sulai exchanged letters with the Burmese regional commander and they agreed that both sides will halt military operations, at least for the time being," he said.

But the Wa guerrilla force, allied to the Burmese Government, was continuing to attack Khun Sa's force. "The Wa continue to fight us. There is intermittent fighting in the Mong Yon area (of southern Shan State)," he said.

Talks between the Burmese Government and Karen guerrillas are inching towards a conclusion, and the guns in southeast Burma might fall silent for the first time in 47 years as early as next month, guerrilla officials said in Mae Sot on Wednesday.

But 70,000 Karen refugees now living in makeshift camps on the Thai side of the border will need more than an end to the fighting before they feel safe enough to return to their homeland, Karen refugee officials said.

Karen National Union leaders have met government intermediaries several times this year to try to end one of the world's longest-running guerrilla wars.

A deputy of Burma's military intelligence chief Lt-Gen Khin Nyunt attended the most recent talks earlier this month. "So far it's talking, talking, but there's no conclusion, no resolution," a senior guerrilla source said. "But if they are sincere, I think we can get something, stop the fighting. We hope so," he said.

A high-level meeting is tentatively scheduled for early November in the southeast Burmese town of Pa-an when an agreement to halt military action might be reached, the sources said.

The guerrilla officials said the November talks will be the first "official" meeting after preliminary talks which have taken place so far and it was hoped the two sides could reach an understanding. "Before it was only middlemen, only discreet meetings," another official said. "We may be able to reach a ceasefire but so far there's been nothing on solving political problems."

Karen refugee officials said the decades of warfare have left the 70,000 refugees now in Thai camps deeply suspicious of the Burmese Army. "It will take a lot of convincing for. people to feel it is really safe," Robert Shwe, a Christian pastor who heads the Karen Refugee Committee said.

'Popular' Party Said Luring Public Servants

BK2610112995 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 0415 GMT 26 Oct 95

[Part Seven in a series of articles by U Hpyo from the rubric "Today's Reading Material" entitled: "Easy for the Destroyer; Difficult for the Constructor," published in the 26 October issue of KYEMON]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A major popular organization has done it again. It is claiming that public service personnel have the right to engage in party politics and that public service personnel need not stay clear of party politics and that such regulations exist only in countries with dictatorships. There is much concern about the future of Myanmar [Burma]. Now we can see how they are lacking in common sense and reason.

If that major popular organization did not make improper claims, instigations, and insinuations, we would not need to resort to writing in this forum. We are doing so in accordance with the maxim calling for one's responsibility to retaliate allegations.

One of the 104 basic principles drawn up by the National Convention for drafting the state constitution clearly stipulates that public service personnel shall stay clear of party politics. This point has been carried in the newspapers and has been reported by radio and television. Such opposition to the provision forbidding public servants from engaging in party politics, despite being aware of such a provision, amounts to a deliberate attempt at taking a different stand or is it an attempt to lure public service personnel who are unitedly discharging their duty toward the nation, or is it an attempt at using public servants to create a situation similar to that of 1988, or is it a matter of misjudgment?

Public service personnel must stay neutral under a multiparty system and they should not allow themselves to be used by any party organization. Factional fighting among parties could affect the unity of public service personnel and cause disintegration. Political parties are susceptible to splits as sadly demonstrated in the history of Myanmar politics. GCBA [General Council of Buddhist Associations], Wunthanu, Dobhama Asiayone, AFPFL [Anti Fascist People's Freedom League], and communist and socialist parties, NUF [National Unity Front], and Union Party emerged and splits and factional fighting developed within and among the parties.

The AFPFL split into two despite claiming it would last 40 years. There were Clean AFPFL — Nu-Tin faction — and Stable AFPFL — Swe-Nyein faction. Clean AFPFL, which later became Union Party, split into three factions. Factions developed over policy and personal issues. In the currently popular organization

[National League for Democracy], there are three rival factions and there is much pretension about unity within each faction. They themselves know about these facts. One should not lie to one's own guardian angel. If public service personnel participate in these split-prone organizations, there would be differences among them in their main organizations such as offices, schools, hospitals, factories, and mills. When there is no unity among public service personnel, people's interests will be neglected. If the people's interests are neglected, it will be the people who will suffer. The country will suffer as well and remain backward and will be reduced to the plight of having to receive handouts from others. When such a situation arises, the country will be subjected to machinations, control, exploitation, and intimidation of a foreign power.

Party politics is to serve the interests of the country and the people in its own way. It is the duty of party organizations to explain their respective party's ideology, platform, conviction, and policy to the public in order to win people's votes at regular general elections.

Myanmar has a population of 46 million and the number of public service servants barely reaches 2 million. These 2 million public servants include members of the Defense Services and Myanmar Police Force. Whether they are armed personnel or nonarmed personnel, such as doctors, engineers, or teachers, they are serving the nation on equal terms with honor. Therefore, public service personnel must stay firmly united.

The public service sector must stay healthy and strong in order to serve the public interests effectively, efficiently, and unitedly. Therefore, public service sector must be separated from party politics in order to prevent infectious split syndrome of party politics. Political parties on their part should observe legal rules and regulations and organize in accordance with democratic practice and strive to obtain people's support honestly.

Each individual public servant and public service organization should also carry out their duty toward the country efficiently and unitedly. In striving to construct and preserve a democratic nation, public service organizations should always remain united and efficient and political parties should operate in accordance with democratic practises. A common goal can be reached through various methods of operation, but mixing party politics and public service can only bring about negative outcome. In the world, some food, if taken on its own, is beneficial to the human body, but if mixed with other foods can be harmful. That is why medical treatises contain lists of foods that cannot be consumed together.

Throughout his career a public servant must discharge his duty steadfastly until his retirement or dismissal. As for a political party, it can enter parliament where it can receive popular support and participate in the adminsitrative, legislative, and judicial affairs of the country in accordance with constitutional provisions. When its popularity declines, the said political party becomes an opposition party. [passage omitted on universal nature of party politics]

It is natural for political parties to have splits and rival organizations, but disunity and rivalry cannot be allowed within the public service. Therefore, public servants should stay clear of party politics and make independent observations and cast votes freely for one's own choice at the time of voting. Public servants should not join political parties, attend party meetings, campaign for party, or carry out assignments given by a party.

Authorities Release 30 From Moulmein Jail

BK2610145795 Rangoon Radio Myanmar in Burmese 1330 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Twenty-eight male and two female detainees, against whom action was taken under existing laws and who were serving their sentences, have been released from Moulmein Jail today after their remaining sentences were commuted under Section-401, Subsection-1 of the Penal Code in accordance with the amnesty notification issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge: Ranariddh's UN Speech Misleading

BK2810130095 (Clandestine) Radio of the Provisional Government of National Union and National Salvation of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 27 Oct 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ranariddh, who is the top traitor and belowground feces and who is nicknamed Chey Chettha III, has been the out-and-out lackey of communist Vietnam and the villainous alliance since his masters combined him with the nation-betraying ringleader, Hun Sen, and made him a chieftain of the two heads in January 1993. Under the two-headed regime, Hun Sen, Chea Sim, Ranariddh, and Sar Kheng have continued the communist Vietnamese war in the most barbaric manner thus far to do away with the Cambodian nation, people, and race; to wreak havoc upon our nation and people.

As before 1993, Communist Vietnam's administrators continue to grab military, police, and civilian powers from Phnom Penh to grassroots localities and to act in the most monopolistic, dictatorial, and fascist manner against our nation and people. The nation-betraying two-headed regime created by communist Vietnam and the alliance is only a hollow regime or a smokescreen for camouflaging the truth.

Everybody knows and agrees that Cambodia is totally deprived of independence, sovereignty, peace, unity, and territorial integrity and that communist Vietnam continues wolfing down and swallowing the country. Communist Vietnam also continues exterminating the Cambodian race through military war and demographic war with over 4 million ethnic Vietnamese who have flowed into Cambodia in a systematic and ceaseless fashion.

The nation-betraying chieftains, such as Hun Sen, Chea Sim, Ranariddh, and Sar Kheng, have kowtowed to serve as tools of war implementing communist Vietnam's policy and strategy of turning Cambodia into a second Kampuchea Kraom [ancient Cambodian territory lost to Vietnam in the 17th century]. They have also pursued the impoverishing and starving policy to kill our people like animals; to starve 6 million of our people to death in the most tragic manner. They are also serving communist Vietnam's policy of wiping out our national culture, literature, customs, and souls through the most corrupt and vicious society war in which everything is stolen or robbed.

Our nation and people absolutely oppose the traitorous two-headed regime and vehemently reject the propaganda made by Chey Chettha III at the UN General Assembly aimed at misleading the international community. Our nation and people are resolutely determined to continue fighting to terminate the two heads, thereby achieving genuine national reconciliation and peace for Cambodia.

Government Approves Part of Sihanoukville Project

BK3010023895 Phnom Penh THE CAMBODIA TIMES in English 22-28 Oct 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Phnom Penh — The Government has approved part of a US$1.3 billion resort and infrastructure project for the southern port of Sihanoukville — the largest single foreign investment in the country, the Ministry of Tourism said.

The approval of the plans, submitted by Malaysian company Ariston Sdn Bhd, includes the replacement of the Sihanoukville airport, a power plant to supply the city's electricity and a 361-room hotel-cum-resort to be built on an island just off the coast. The plans for the project, preliminarily agreed to when the contract was signed in January, were approved by the Council of Ministers, Tourism Minister Veng Sereivut said.

"This is an exciting moment for Cambodia and the government to have approved these critical projects that lay the foundation for economic development which Cambodia is striving to achieve," the minister said in a statement.

The hotel complex, to include a casino, will take up most of the 100ha Naga Island which was offered to potential investors in exchange for upgrading Sihanoukville's airport into one of international standard.

Ariston, a company belonging to Malaysian entrepreneur Datuk Dr Chen Lip Keong, will replace the airport's existing runway with one capable of handling Boeing 737-size aircraft and eventually plans to increase its size to accommodate jumbo jets. The terminal facilities will also be replaced.

Sihanoukville will also benefit from the project as Ariston is to construct a power plant capable of producing five megawatts of power initially and 20 megawatts later on, Veng Sereivut said.

The contract-signing with Ariston attracted opposition from some members of parliament who complained the deal had been conducted in total secrecy and alleged improper conduct on the part of the negotiators.

Besides approving the plans, the government also approved the creation of a development authority for Sihanoukville which will consider a development masterplan for the area drawn up by Ariston; as well as a proposal to implement a title system for 99 year leases.

The government has targeted Sihanoukville, Phnom Penh and the northern town of Siem Reap close to the Angkor Wat temple complex as priorities for infrastructure and tourist development projects.

Sirivut Says Ranariddh No Challenge at Congress

BK3010024095 Phnom Penh THE CAMBODIA TIMES in English 22-28 Oct 95

[Unattribiuted report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Phnom Penh — Mounting speculation of a possible challenge to the position of Prince Norodom Ranariddh as chairman of the royalist FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party has prompted one of those linked to the alleged plotters, Prince Norodom Sirivut to deny any involvement in it.

Prince Sirivut, who is also FUNCINPEC secretary general also said that the scheduled 1998 elections should result in the appointment of a single prime minister, rather than retention of the current two copremiers arrangement.

"I talked to my people to prepare themselves to compete not to make prearrangements. Yes, after we have a coalition — it's good for the Kingdom — but please one prime minister, FUNCINPEC can no longer accept two prime ministers. [sentence and quotation mark as received]

While the royalists were triumphant in the last elections, they have not have to an equal share of power at local level from the former rulers of Phnom Penh. [sentence as received]

The prince also told reporters at FUNCINPEC's new headquarters that the party congress which was supposed to be held in November had been postponed because of "technical" problems, and it had nothing to do with political inteference.

"There isn't any political problem in Funcinpec," said the party secretary-general, who is half brother to King Norodom Sihanouk and uncle to Prince Ranariddh, while adding that the meeting has now been set for February next year.

"The congress is supposed to be a real debate about our new regulations, our...political situation, economical situation," Sirivut said.

"I wish to state here that the congress will not be the venue for a challenge on the president. The speculations on this are unfounded," he said.

The prince resigned his ministerial position last year over disagreements with the policies of Prince Ranariddh and Second Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen.

Army Television Broadcast Slated To Begin 1 Nov

BK2810140195 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 28 Oct 95

[Unattributed press communique]

[FBIS Translated Text] Princes, princesses, samdechs, excellencies, madams, ladies, gentlemen, misses, officers, noncommissioned officers, combatants, military police, national police, militia, and compatriots:

You are all informed that as of 1 November 1995, the National Defense Ministry will begin to broadcast its army television channel 5 program at 1700 every day on the frequency band of 174 to 181 megahertzs. You are invited to watch and to provide suggestions on how to improve the program of the army television [passage indistinct].

Kandal Vietnamese Settlers Sent to Provinces

BK2810152695 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ethnic Vietnamese staying temporarily at Chrey Thom in Kandal Province are now being sent back to their provinces. Kompong Chhnang Province is receiving 455 families. So far, two contingents of the families have already arrived in the province; others will follow later.

According to Kompong Chhnang District's police, between 14 and 21 October, over 100 Vietnamese families had arrived in the district. They were being assisted by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Some of those Vietnamese will resettle in various localities [words indistinct] of Baribo District while others will reside in Kompong Chhnang District [words indistinct].

Indonesia

U.S. 'Seriously' Interested in Suharto Visit

BK3010081495 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 30 Oct 95

[From the "Press review"]

[FBIS Translated Text] MEDIA INDONESIA says it is no exaggeration to say that we are proud of President Suharto's visit to the United States because many things indicate that the White House and the Americans were seriously interested in the visit.

MEDIA INDONESIA notes the U.S. support for Indonesia as the venue of an Asia-Pacific ecological meeting next January. Nevertheless, MEDIA INDONESIA says the U.S. support and friendly attitude are, of course, not one way. Owing to growing interests, Washington seems to be regarding Jakarta as being receptive to differences in opinion in dialogues. The United States has the impression that a wise attitude and partnership with Indonesia are much more beneficial than a confrontational one. Accordingly, it is natural to hope that this partnership will continue and will even be enhanced.

Suharto-Clinton Trade Liberalization Talks Viewed

BK3010121595 Jakarta SUARA KARYA in Indonesian 30 Oct 95 p 5

[Editorial: "The United States, Republic of Indonesia Support Comprehensive Liberalization"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Preparations for the third APEC [Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation] Economic Leaders

Meeting (AELM III) was the main topic of discussion at a meeting between President Suharto and President Bill Clinton in Washington on Friday. The two heads of state exchanged ideas on how to ensure the success of AELM III in Osaka, Japan. This is a matter of concern because issues are still pending regarding the substance to be adopted by the leaders of APEC's 18 members.

The AELM III is scheduled to be held in Osaka, Japan from 16-19 November 1995. In accordance with the agreement achieved at the AELM II in Bogor in November 1994, the upcoming AELM III should formulate an action agenda to implement the Bogor Declaration. However, the senior officials meeting (SOM) that has been taking place since February is not running smoothly, and approximately 85 percent of the issues have been resolved.

Officials at the APEC SOM in Tokyo, which ended on 13 October 1995, are still not able to overcome obstacles to trade liberalization of the sensitive sectors, so these thorny issues will be taken up at the ministerial level meeting. We foresee, however, that it will be difficult even at this level to achieve any agreement. There is a great possibility that the issues must be discussed at the heads of states meeting.

In the Bogor Declaration, APEC's economic leaders agreed to implement a coordinated and comprehensive approach to trade and investment liberalization in the area, by the year 2010 for developed countries and by 2020 for developing countries. However, some sectors are irritants to these trade liberalization goals. APEC member countries that have interest in such sectors have asked for the sectors to be treated differently. The agricultural issue is the most difficult to resolve. Japan, China, South Korea, and Taiwan have demanded that the agriculture sector be made an exception—that is, to be excluded from the trade liberalization action agenda. They have proposed flexibility or compromise in APEC's principle of comprehensive application of trade liberalization goals. However, agricultural product exporters like Australia, New Zealand, and the United States have strongly opposed such exceptions.

In the meeting with Suharto in Washington, Clinton expressed his disagreement with Japan's proposal. A principle of comprehensive application that covers all trade and economic activities without exception should be strictly adhered to; otherwise, the move toward trade liberalization will be slowed. If Japan's proposal is entertained, other countries will also apply for exceptions because it is certain that each country has a sensitive sector, such as textiles, automobiles, and so on. Finally, the move for trade liberalization will no longer have any significance.

Japan is in a dilemma over this matter. As the host of the AELM III in Osaka, Japan must make sure the forum is successful. The AELM will be called successful if APEC's economic leaders can reach agreement on an action agenda for the implementation of the Bogor Declaration. This means that the agriculture sector will also be included in the action agenda. There is a serious internal conflict over the plan to open the Japanese market to agricultural product imports.

There are two more weeks left before the APEC forum opens. The people are beginning to be pessimistic that the differences over the handling of the sensitive sectors will be ironed out. If this issue cannot be resolved, the basis for a split among APEC member countries will grow.

Consulate in Vanimo Attacked by OPM Members

BK2710152095 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 1155 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jayapura, 27 October (ANTARA) — About 40 persons who call themselves members of the Organization of Free Papua (OPM), attacked the office of the Republic of Indonesia Consulate in Vanimo, the capital of Sandaun Province (700 kilometers from Port Moresby) Papua New Guinea [PNG], on Friday at 6.00 PNG time or 5.00 East Indonesia Standard Time (0300 West Indonesia Standard Time).

The group, which was believed to be armed with three U.S.-made M-16 rifles and one Russian-made AK rifle, as well as spears, iron rods, and bows and arrows, successfully blasted through the office door and ransacked the unmanned office.

Apart from destroying doors and windows, they also destroyed a Toyota Kijang automobile which was parked in the compound, and made off with cash amounting to U.S.$12,000 and some office equipment.

Speaking to reporters, Brigadier General Amir Syarifuddin, chief of staff of the 8th Trikora Command, stated that only two officials (diplomats) and two local employees were in the office when the attack occurred. Besides functioning as an office, the office was also used as living quarters for some staff members.

Two consulate officials — Agus Sofyan and Hasan Basri — hid in a bathroom to avoid being captured. However, local staff members — Kaisere and Bruce — were captured but were later released by a group of OPM members when the Vanimo police chased them.

The group arrived in a truck they had stolen along a road close to Skotchiau and Bewami villages which are the operational centers of the OPM groups headed by Hans Bomay and Mathias Wenda.

Brigadier General Syarifuddin said: "It is believed that the group left Skotchiau in a truck they had stolen late that night. The OPM group was believed to be under the leadership of Hans and Mathias."

David Mahulete, the consul in Vanimo who was the major target, was spared any danger because he was in Jayapura when the attack occurred.

He and his family left Jayapura for Vanimo in a speedboat at 0700 PNG time or 0600 West Indonesian Standard Time (0500 East Indonesia Standard Time). Upon arrival, he was shocked to find his office in shambles and under police guard.

Speaking through an international telephone link, Mahulete explained that he and his family, as well as his staff members were safe.

He also stated that no one died in the attack; only U.S.$12,000 was stolen. Meanwhile, an inventory was made of other items that had been stolen.

According to Brigadier General Syarifuddin, another objective of the attack on the consulate was to foil the border liaison meeting (BLM) between Indonesian and PNG officials. The meeting is currently underway in Nabire, the capital of Paniai Regency.

The BLM opened on 23 October, and is currently underway on a luxury ship, KM [maritime vessel] Tatamailau, owned by PELNI [National Maritime Corporation] on route to Jayapura and Nabire.

Several issues pertaining to Indonesia and PNG were discussed at the BLM. The meeting is scheduled to end Friday night (27 October). The attack on the Indonesian Consulate at Vanimo was also believed to be a follow-up action to the burning of the red and white Indonesian flag on 14 September in Madang, PNG.

Brigadier General Syarifuddin said: "As a result of failure to hinder Indonesia-PNG friendly relations, the consulate's office was attacked."

He confirmed the existence of the OPM, but Indonesia-PNG relations will not be affected by its existence.

He added that the PNG Government and the Vanimo police are presently conducting indepth investigations while the vicinity surrounding the consulate has been declared off limits.

Regret

Speaking to ANTARA, Dr.[academic title] Ghaffar Fadyl, the Foreign Ministry's information director expressed regret over the incident.

However, he welcomed the PNG Government's effort to resolve the incident [words indistinct] the attackers.

According to Ghaffar, the Indonesian Ambassador to PNG, Major General (retired) Abinowo Mukmin held a meeting with the PNG Foreign Ministry's first echelon officials regarding the incident.

He said: "We welcome the PNG Government's regret over the incident and its promise to take action against the attackers."

Meanwhile, a source at the consulate in Vanimo explained that there are six OPM centers with about 114 members situated at Sandaun Province bordering Jayapura Province and to the west along the border of the Merauke Regency.

The group under the leadership of Bomay situated in Bewami is most influential of the six OPM groups.

The other four groups are namely the Impok Nikorin group centered at Kembi; the group under Patrick based at Saint Alice; the P.S. [expansion unknown] Lusi group based at Weam; and the group under John Wakum based at Kiungga. The OPM groups have also previously conducted attacks in PNG after carrying out acts of aggression and disturbances in Irianjaya.

Consulate Staff Ordered To Leave Vanimo

LD2810103995 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0900 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Indonesian Government has ordered the staff of the Vanimo consulate in Papua New Guinea to leave the area following an attack yesterday by 40 armed rebels. A foreign affairs official in Jakarta, Ghaffar Fadyl, says the staff and their families will move to Jayapura, the capital of Indonesia's Irian Jaya Province, until the Papua New Guinea Government guarantees their safety. About 40 attackers, reportedly members of the Free Papua Movement, ransacked the consulate in Vanimo and briefly took two staff members hostage in an early morning raid. The military commander of Irian Jaya, Brig.-Gen. Amir Syarifuddin, claims the rebels wanted to stop talks between Papua New Guinea and Indonesia on facilitating border crossings between

Alatas Confirms Attack on Consulate in Vanimo

BK2910080695 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 0559 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Paramaribo, 29 Oct (ANTARA) — Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told journalists in Paramaribo on Sunday that the Papua New Guinea (PNG) Government has promised to investigate the attack on the Indonesian Consulate in Vanimo by rebels a few days ago. Those guilty of carrying out the attack will be charged in court.

"We have reported the attack to the authorities in PNG. They have promised to investigate the incident and take legal action against the attackers, " Alatas said when asked to confirm the attack.

About 40 persons who call themselves members of the Free Papua Movement (OPM) [Organisasi Papua Merdeka], attacked the Indonesian Consulate in Vanimo, the capital of Sandaun province (700 kilometers from Port Moresby) in PNG, on Friday at 1600 PNG Time or 0300 West Indonesian Time [2000 GMT].

The attackers, said to be armed with three U.S.-made M-16 firearms, one Russian-made AK rifle, axes, iron rods, and arrows, managed to break open the door of the consulate building by shooting, and ransacked it.

Alatas said it was possible for them to carry out the attack because the office of the consul general in Vanimo is situated near the OPM camp. However, fortunately, the Indonesian diplomats were not in the office at the time of the attack because they were attending a meeting elsewhere.

He said that the local staff managed to save themselves from the OPM members, and no one was killed during the attack.

Apart from damaging the consulate's doors and windows, the attackers also damaged a parked car in the compound and took US$12,000 cash along with some office equipment.

Soldiers Arrested Over Deaths in Irian Jaya

LD2910103595 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0900 GMT 29 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] A senior Indonesian military officer in the province of Irian Jaya has announced the arrests of four soldiers over killings that occurred during military operations against alleged separatists. Brigadier General Amir Syarifuddin released the information in a statement to Indonesia's ANTARA news agency in Irian Jaya's capital, Jayapura. He said the soldiers were arrested following a probe by a local military team on the incident in the village of Hoea on 1 July, which left 11 civilians dead. General Syarifuddin said the soldiers, including a second lieutenant, were charged with six counts of human rights violations linked to a raid on alleged separatist rebels in the village. He said the military will hold a formal investigation to hear evidence from 27 witnesses to determine whether there was sufficient evidence for a trial. If there was, the soldiers would be court-martialled in January. [passage omitted]

Laos

Diplomatic Relations Established With ROK

BK2710091995 Vientiane KPL in English 0949 GMT 26 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vientiane, October 26 (KPL) — The Lao People's Democratic Republic and the Republic of Korea reached yesterday in Seoul an agreement to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level.

Signing the joint statement on the establishment of the diplomatic relations were deputy foreign ministers of Laos and of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Phongsavat Boupha and Mr. Lee See-young, respectively.

The aims of the establishment of the diplomatic relations are to develop the relations and cooperation of mutual benefit between the two countries on the basis of respect for the United Nations charter and general principles of international laws.

Accord on Unexploded Ordnance Removal Signed

BK3010124295 Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Vientiane, October 30 [KPL] — On Thursday 26 October 1995 at 0300 P.M., a ceremony was held at the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare to sign the project agreement for the second year of the Xieng Khouang Unexploded Ordnance [UXO] removal project. The agreement was signed by Mr. Phetsavang Sounnalat, deputy head, Department of Social Welfare at the Ministry, and Ms Jenni Rauch, acting representative, Mines Advisory Group [MAG], Laos.

The project allows for the continuation of work of the first project year, and training a further 20 Lao UXO clearance technicians. UXO technicians will be trained in detection, recognition, and demolition of unexploded ordnance, and an emphasis will be placed on developing managerial skills of key staff during the year. The programme will also include the development of an effective programme of community awareness activities. The community awareness programme will include collecting data about the impact of UXO on people's daily lives in the province and carrying out a programme aimed at changing behaviour patterns to bring about a reduction in accidents and injuries from UXO. During year two of the project, a total of 68 national staff will be employed. The project budget of the second year is U.S. $973,851. The project is currently funded by the Mennonite central committee, who were project partners in the first year of the project, the British Government Overseas Development Agency

[ODA], UNDP, CIDSE [Swedish aid organization] and SCIAF [French aid organization]. Further funding is still being sought.

The Mines Advisory Group is a British humanitarian NGO [[Non-Governmental Organization, specialising in making land safe for rural communities worldwide, by eradicating landmines and unexploded ordnance, and educating local populations about the dangers. MAG is also an active member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, which is campaigning to stop the production, transfer, stockpiling and use of landmines globally.

KOSANG PHAK Magazine Marks Anniversary

BK3010123895 Vientiane KPL in English 0935 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vientiane, October 30 (KPL) — The editorial board of the KOSANG PHAK (party building) magazine, on October 27, held a meeting with the mass media circle of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] to exchange experiences, on the occasion of its 2nd anniversary (October 20, 1993-95). Taking part in the meeting were representatives from the magazines of KOSANG PHAK, ALOUN MAI (dawn), KHOSANA (propaganda) and PASASON (people) newspaper.

Apart from the editors in chief and the editorial boards of the four magazines and papers, there were also representatives of the Organisation Board of the LPRP Central Committee and directors of departments of the Organisation Board attending the meeting.

Also attending the meeting was Mr. Thongsing Thammavong, member of the LPRP CC Politburo, chief of the LPRP CC Organisation Board.

During the meeting, Mr. Thongsing Thammavong called on all the organs of the party and government to focus on propagating preparations for the forthcoming LPRP 6th Congress, particularly to the movement of party restructuring, building of strong party cells and all-round guidance. In order to achieve these aims, Mr. Thongsing Thammavong suggested the participants to study and absorb party's line and policy and to exchange views for the most efficiency of the propaganda and training work.

Philippines

Ramos Urges 'More Caring', 'Pro-Active' UN

BK3010154395 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 26 Oct 95 p 8

[Report by Mercedes Tira-Andrei]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York (Via PLDT) — In a five-minute and 10-second speech promoting "a more caring and proactive" world assembly, President Ramos last Tuesday [24 October] afternoon urged the United Nations to convene an international conference to address the plight of migrant workers, take a "forthright stand" against terrorism, nuclear arms and trade protectionism and undertake structural reforms.

He spoke before the Special Commemorative Meeting of the UN General Assembly to celebrate the organization's 50th anniversary, the largest ever gathering of heads of state or government in history.

He was the third speaker in the last plenary session that heard such leaders as President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao of India, President Eduardo Frei Ruiz- Tagle of Chile, President Carlos Saul Menem of Argentina, and Haitian President Jean Bertrand Aristide, among others.

Mr. Ramos's speech reflected the UN concerns of the Philippines, a founding father of the assembly created in June 1945, as well as the ideas of the Group of 77, the UN organization of developing countries which the Philippines chairs until the end of 1995.

The wave of democratization in the last five years has "expanded civil and political liberty for millions the world over," Mr. Ramos noted, but said the world is still crowded with "examples of man's cruelty to man and of state repression" as well as "new dangers" to human rights and welfare such as trade in illicit drugs, trafficking in women and children, the rapid spread of deadly diseases and international terrorism.

"Terrorism is a dagger aimed at the very heart of each nation's security and global stability," he said.

But he said looming above these new threats is the "biggest challenge" of worker migration, "many of whom are deprived of their rights and work in extreme conditions to eke out a living," he said.

The president's mention of worker migration officially brought to the UN forum the plight of Filipino overseas contract workers. "We of the Group of 77 call for the convening by the United Nations of an international conference on migration development to specifically address the plight of migrant workers and their families," he said.

"The problems, let me say plainly, can only deepen as the pace of globalization continues and accelerates. There will be ever larger movements of people in response to the labor shortages of fast- growing economies."

President Ramos said that while waiting for such a conference, UN member states can enact laws providing for "the humane and just treatment of foreign workers in their midst...We call on all to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families."

President Ramos also called for an increase of the UN's capacity for "peacekeeping, peace making and peace building." In the face of raging regional and ethnic conflicts — "a challenge and affront to the conscience of mankind" in such poor places as Bosnia, Rwanda and Somalia, the UN must have "greater readiness to act," he said.

President Ramos, however, warned that UN forces must be "sufficiently financed and not funded by the diversion of resources" earmarked for development work or they might be used "in the service of anyone's powers policy objectives."

Without naming France and China, he said that the Philippines condemns "the grotesque obsession" of "some countries moving aggressively to test and develop new nuclear devices — not in their neighborhoods but in others' backyards."

On the UN's need for structural reforms, the president noted, "The most efficient organization in the world cannot effectively function without stable and predictable financing. We call upon all members to fulfill their financial obligations to the United Nations and do so on time."

He said the country strongly supports the reform of the UN Security Council to ensure "equitable representation of all geographic regions and of the developing countries."

"Security Council membership ought to represent more equitably all geographic regions of the world, including the developing countries who make up the great majority of UN's membership," he said.

"Let us agree on a new formula for assessing the contributions of members," he said. "Those who insist on a dominant position in the international institutions must assume — and discharge — the corresponding obligations." Long-standing proposals for a global taxation scheme on certain activities that can help finance the UN should be looked into "once and for all."

Calling his speech "The United Nations: Our Bridge To the Future," the president said the UN must get its "perspectives straight."

"Nonetheless, amidst this uncertainty we know that whenever hostilities break out we have this machinery for peace that we can use to make nations and peoples reason together, he said. "The United Nations has provided a bridge between the past, the present and the future...This very human machinery will respond...depending on the will we, the nations of the world, invest in it."

The call for UN reforms is not an expression of "impatience with an institution that has served our world with such dedication for half a century...but rather the hope that our United Nations of the future will be even be more caring and proactive and be the bridge to the fulfillment of our people's aspirations," he said.

On development issues, the president called trade barriers and "the closing of markets to poor-country exports" as the "danger" that divides rich nations and poor nations. He said poor nations can actually raise their living standards "given the right policies and just a little assistance." But developed nations of the West have "a selfish fear" of poor nations improving themselves he said.

"Instead of welcoming this hopeful trend toward the economic liberation of the poor, we find a deplorable tendency (of the West) to turn it back by closing...markets to poor-country exports and raising false issues concerning the environment and labor standards."

"It is time that we recover, in this body and all over the world, the spirit of fraternity in winning economic freedom for all nations," he said.

Mr. Ramos will be recognized by the UN as a world leader in the advancement of human rights when he joins a select panel Wednesday to discuss human rights.

The so-called "Ramos doctrine" of "democracy and development working hand in hand" — as pronounced here by all the president's men — has found resonance in the draft declaration submitted to the world leaders for adoption Tuesday. The six-part document focuses on peace, development, equality, justice and the redirection of the UN into greater service to humankind, especially the suffering and the deeply deprived."

Meanwhile, President Ramos said the Philippines has just joined a core group of countries that will "work closely together to combat international terrorist threats."

The Philippines, the United States Pakistan, Jordan and Egypt "needed to form (the) core group," he said in the group interview he gave to THE WASHINGTON POST, THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE and NEWSWEEK. Israel is expected to also join the group. Libya and Iran have also expressed interest in joining, he added.

The group will establish a closer more effective network to share information needed to combat terrorist threats around the world, he said.

Thailand

Banhan: Nation Not Afraid of Threat of Sanctions

BK2910152895 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 29 Oct 95 p 3

[Unattributed Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thailand can stand on its own and does not fear economic sanctions by the United States, Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha said yesterday.

Thailand had done the right thing so far and had no reason to worry about the threat, he said.

"If the United States imposes sanctions on us without reason, we will not yield," he said.

The ability to stand alone and generate strong economic growth should encourage Thailand to "fearlessly move ahead" for the benefit of the people.

Mr Banhan, who had just returned from New York, was responding to reports Thailand, among other countries, faced sanctions for allegedly tolerating the laundering of drugs money.

Denying Thailand was a money-laundering centre, he said he did not believe the reports, even though the State Department said it had monitored money laundering here in 1994 and 1995.

However, he said laws to block money laundering were needed, though not in response to American pressure.

The Office of the Narcotics Control Board has proposed a draft bill to counter money laundering.

"Buddhism inspires Thais to always do good," he said. "The government will tackle all vices, not only drug trafficking."

Mr Banhan said he agreed with President Bill Clinton when he called on the international community to cooperate in the suppression of international crime, terrorism, weapons, drug trafficking and money laundering.

But U.S. Charge d'Affaires Ralph Boyce, who welcomed Mr Banhan at Don Muang airport, confirmed that money laundering had been going on here.

The fact the prime minister supported such legislation indicated recognition of the practice, said Mr Boyce, who confirmed Thailand was on a high-priority list of countries where money laundering was prevalent.

However, he said the ranking had nothing to do with another list of countries facing sanctions.

"I did not see Thailand on the sanction list," he said. "I do not know where that report (about sanctions) came from."

Deputy Prime Minister Samak Sunthoarawet said Thailand had been listed with the United States itself, the United Kingdom and Switzerland but was also listed as a country which cooperated in drug suppression.

"We could say that the United States wanted us to have a clean bathroom. But it is not necessary that people living in a house with a clean bathroom must also be clean.

"The United States wanted us to have a clean bathroom and we did but it may be used by some dirty people," he said.

"That's why Thailand should have an anti-money laundering law to prevent drug trafficking."

Mr Samak said the Chuan Likphai administration should also be held responsible for nine Thai bank branches opening in the Cayman Islands, where money laundering was said to be very active.

Thaksin Meeting With Baker, U.S. Envoy Reported

BK3010024395

[FBIS Editorial Report] Five Bangkok Thai-language Dailies — NAEO NA, KRUNGTHEP THURAKIT, PHUCHATKAN, MATICHON, and SIAM RAT — carry reports on 28 October on Deputy Prime Minister Thaksin Chinnawat's luncheon with former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and U.S. Charge d'Affaires Ralph Boyce at the Oriental Hotel in Bangkok on 27 October, and Ralph Boyce's remarks confirming that the United States has no plans to impose sanctions on Thailand.

NAEO NA carries a 350-word report on the meeting on pages 1 and 9. The paper says: "U.S. charge d'Affaires Ralph Boyce and former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had a luncheon with Deputy Prime Minister

Thaksin Chinnawat and senior Foreign Ministry officials at the Oriental Hotel at noon of 27 October. Speaking to reporters, U.S. Charge d'Affaires Ralph Boyce cited U.S. President Bill Clinton's speech at the UN General Assembly as saying that the United States has no plans to impose sanctions on Thailand and that the country is not on its money laundering and drug trafficking warning list. However, according to an U.S. annual report, several countries including Thailand is on a list of countries where money laundering is believed to be prevalent. Thailand, Austria, Turkey, and Greece are among countries which should adopt better antimoney laundering laws. The report is not aimed at Thailand in particular."

Ralph Boyce is quoted as saying: "I know that Thailand has extended good cooperation in drug suppression and is in the process of submitting an anti-money laundering law to Parliament. I hope Thailand will have an anti-money laundering law next year. I would like to congratulate the country on this. I would like to affirm that the U.S. has not pressed Thailand on this issue."

The paper adds: "The U.S. charge d'affaires stressed that the United States has no plans to impose sanctions on Thailand. The U.S. president only mentioned Colombia in his speech."

Furthermore, when asked by reporters to give information on Thai politicians involved in drug trafficking, Ralph Boyce asked: "Do you want me to say this in front of the TV cameras? I cannot tell you this."

KRUNGTHEP THURAKIT, in a 350-word report on pages 15 and 16, says: After the luncheon, former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker told reporters that he was on a non-official visit. He would not do anything that may affect ties between the governments of the two countries. During his tenure, his country and Thailand cooperated well on various issues besides drug suppression. When asked whether he thought Thailand has been blacklisted, as reported, Mr. Baker replied that he did not believe it. He said: "It is just accusations. You can wait and see if you do not believe me." The paper repeats U.S. Charge d'Affaires Ralph Boyce's remarks confirming that the U.S. has no plan to impose sanctions on Thailand.

PHUCHATKAN carries a 350-word report on the meeting on page 24. The report adds: "The luncheon lasted for about one and a half hours. Thaksin told reporters that they discussed common issues during the luncheon. They did not discuss the drug issue in detail. The United States knows well Thailand's cooperation in drug suppression. The U.S. also knows that Thailand has been preparing an antimoney laundering law for a long time. He assured that there are no problems between the two countries. There have been good contacts between government officials and good cooperation in criminal extradition."

In a 300-word report on page 12, MATICHON says: "James Baker declined to comment on whether the United States will impose economic sanctions on Thailand on the drug issue, saying that he cannot give his views opinions on this issue since he has no portfolio in this U.S. Administration. He said the U.S. Government knows well that Thailand has extended close cooperation in drug suppression. The news in the newspapers are untrustworthy." The report also noted U.S. Charge d'Affaires Ralph Boyce's confirmation that the U.S. had no plan to impose sanctions on Thailand and that it has not pressured Thailand over the anti-money laundering law.

SIAM RAT, in a 250-word report on page 11, quotes U.S. Charge d'Affaires Ralph Boyce as saying: "The United States has no plans to impose sanctions on Thailand. It will impose sanctions only on Colombia. The U.S. President mentioned the Cali drug cartel in Colombia in his speech, which has nothing to do with Thailand. Thailand has not been blacklisted." He adds: "Normally, the United States issues reports on drug problems which cover the world and not only on Thailand, as it wants to step up suppression against narcotics."

Thaksin, Baker Discuss Drug Money

BK2710130695 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1200 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Prime Minister Police Lieutenant Colonel Thaksin Chinnawat held a consultative meeting with James Baker, former U.S. secretary of state, and Ralph Boyce, U.S. charge d'affaires to Thailand, to inquire about the report that the United States plans to use trade sanctions against Thailand on the grounds that the latter is laundering drug money.

After the three-hour meeting, the deputy prime minister reaffirmed that the United States appreciated Thailand's endeavors to solve the narcotics problem.

The former U.S. secretary of state said that he could confirm that Thai-U.S. cooperation in tackling the narcotics problem during his term as U.S. secretary of state was excellent. He said he did not believe that the new U.S. Administration regarded Thailand as a major source of drug money laundering as reported.

The U.S. charge d'affairs stressed that Thailand is not one of the countries facing U.S. sanctions, adding that the United States itself has problems with money laundering by drug traffickers. He said he is glad to see

Thailand making efforts to pass the law against money laundering, which will certainly contribute to solving the drug trafficking problem.

Ministers React to U.S. Drug List Issue

BK2710133095 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 27 Oct 95 p 22

[Editorial: "Thai Cabinet's Attitude Toward the United States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton's speech at the United Nations threatening to use trade sanctions against countries involved in drug trafficking and money laundering, and the subsequent disclosure by a high-level U.S official that Thailand was one of 10 countries on the target list have stirred up a hornet's nest. Several cabinet members including Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha, who is still abroad, did not hesitate to give interviews hitting back at the president and the United States.

Cabinet members who behaved like agitated hornets were Samak Suntharawet, Piyanat Watcharaphon, Police Lieutenant Colonel Thaksin Chinnawat, and Police Captain Chaloem Yubamrung. They came up with all kinds of reproaches. For example, the United States always acts big, but it should look at itself given the fact that increasing demands for narcotics by that country is also a contributing factor. Bill Clinton's statement was inconsistent. The United States thinks it is the big boss of the universe and other countries are all bad.

If we ask these ministers to justify their reactions, they will certainly say that they want to defend the country's dignity because the U.S. accusation was ambiguous and unfair. However, many other Thai citizens who also cherish their national dignity not less than members of the present cabinet continue to remain indifferent. On the contrary, they even feel worried about the response of those ministers because this can lead to a situation detrimental to the Thai nation.

It is an undeniable fact that Thailand's independence is equal to that of a big power like the United States. The United States has adopted a policy of taking serious action against narcotics trafficking. Meanwhile, Thailand is one of the countries targetted for close surveillance, and still has no law to prevent the laundering of drug money. Moreover, several Thai politicians who have been blacklisted by the United States as persona non grata are now playing important roles in the present cabinet. The United States, therefore, does not like that, and will use any means to attack the Thai Government. Bill Clinton's statement at the UN General Assembly is one way to do this.

It is true that the government of Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa- acha has every right to retaliate for the defense of the dignity of the Thai nation. However, it should also be understood that the words "Thai nation" means the Thai people in the entire country, not three or four persons in the Chat Thai Party. Reactions of the said ministers indicated a tremendous difference in the degrees of awareness to the severity of the narcotics problem and the sense of political stability between the Thai Government and the United States, and can be harmful to the image of the Thai people and national interests. The government of Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha should be aware of this possibility.

Thanat Offers U.S. Exit for Dropping Allegation

BK2910155695 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 29 Oct 95 p 3

[Unattributed Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States should drop its drug allegations against two senior Thai politicians as this is the only graceful way out of the embarrassment of making groundless accusations against the Kingdom's citizens, Public Hearing Commission Chairman Thanat Khoman said.

Talking to a group of Thai reporters in New York last week, Mr Thanat said the United States has so far not been able to come up with any evidence to substantiate its drug allegations against Chat Thai MP's Narong Wongwan and Watthana Atsawahem.

The allegations, by any standards, are morally and legally unacceptable since they lack grounds for prosecution under the law.

Therefore, the United States should withdraw the allegations and put an end to the row, Mr Thanat said.

The former foreign minister said he is ready to disband the panel and stop digging into the issue if the United States decides to withdraw its accusations.

However, Mr Thanat said he doubted that the United States would follow his advice because as the world's superpower it may not be able to easily accept that it has made a mistake in making the baseless allegations.

"The U.S. Government should be more sportsmanlike. If it wants to maintain the allegations, then it must provide evidence which can be used to prosecute the two politicians in court." Mr Thanat said.

The United States should have realised by now that making such allegations was a mistake and that the problem could be put to an end if it withdraws them.

Mr Thanat claimed the allegations made by the U.S. Government against the two Thai politicians had an ulterior motive.

They were made to give the U.S. Government bargaining power over Thailand to make the Kingdom comply with its wishes on many issues concerning its own interests.

Among these ulterior motives were the United States' desire for Thailand to make progress on the double taxation problem and to liberalise its insurance market, Mr Thanat claimed.

He said his commission would continue to probe the U.S. allegations although he could not give an exact date as to when the results of its investigation would be known.

The sub-committees set up to look into the complaint filed by the two politicians who were the target of the U.S. allegations, will study whether there are grounds for further investigation, he said.

Mr Thanat said his sources had told him to keep a close watch on the problem as it might be positively resolved in a few weeks.

However, he did not elaborate on the identities of his sources or reveal how the case might be brought to an end.

Banhan Returns, Reports Results of U.S. Trip

BK2810142395 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] After completing his mission to attend the special session of the United Nations General Assembly marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha returned to Thailand this morning at 0615 on Thai Airways International Flight TG 971.

At the airport he was welcomed back by a number of prominent figures in the government including Deputy Prime Minister Air Chief Marshal Sombun Rahong, Deputy Prime Minister Samak Sunthorawet, and Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office Pongphon Adireksan.

Sinlapachai Nuipri, executive member of the Chat Thai Party, who reportedly was to submit a letter requesting a cabinet reshuffle signed by a group of Chat Thai Party members to the prime minister, was also on hand at the airport, but did not submit any letter to the prime minister.

Prime Minister Banhan described the results of the trip to attend the UN meeting as a considerable success. During the trip, he met with leaders of various countries, especially leaders of ASEAN countries prior to a major meeting — the ASEAN summit — to be held in Thailand this December, and the Asia-Euro meeting — a meeting between Asian and European countries — to be held in March 1996.

Regarding news reports in Thailand while the prime minister was abroad, especially on the issue of the United States imposing retaliation measures against Thailand, and putting Thailand on its priority watch list of countries engaged in laundering money earned from narcotics trafficking, the prime minister said that when he first learned of the news, he was alarmed. However, the prime minister said that the 15-minute speech delivered by the U.S. President at the UN meeting did not mention any specific country. He only requested cooperation from all countries in opposing international terrorism, narcotics suppression, and prevention of money laundering.

Regarding this issue, the prime minister believes that the narcotics problem has not surfaced only under the present Thai Government, or in the past few months. This is an international problem that all countries have faced. If there are no buyers or sellers the narcotics problem will not exist. The prime minister and this government have not been inactive on the narcotics problem. The prime minister himself does not like immoral practices, and has ordered full and consistent suppression of narcotics by all concerned. As a result, several narcotics traffickers were arrested. The present and previous governments have never been negligent about the issue as well. The current government carried out narcotics suppression more strongly than in past governments.

Regarding the question of whether money laundering exists in Thailand as published in news reports, the prime minister said news is news but such news about Thailand is inaccurate. If the news is accurate, there must be clear evidence to support it, to make it trustworthy. The Thai Government therefore does not believe in such published reports. Should a case involve any individual, should there be sufficient evidence, full legal action will be taken. Therefore, since Thailand is not in a situation as stated in the reports, there is no need to worry. The prime minister certainly does not believe that Thailand is a source of money laundering as stated in the reports.

Regarding an anti-money laundering law, the prime minister said Thailand agrees with the enactment of this law to suppress those who earn money dishonestly. Although Thailand does not have such a law in force, if any unscrupulous source is known to exist the government will suppress and take legal action at its full ability.

Regarding the U.S announcement to impose sanctions against countries without measures to prevent money laundering, the prime minister said that we will do anything that we consider correct — not necessarily what the United States feels but what the Thais, who believe in Buddhism, feel. The prime minister ordered police officials to strongly suppress not only narcotics but all kinds of immoral acts. We have already carried out such actions. If the United States will unreasonably impose retaliation measures against Thailand, we cannot allow them to do so. Do not worry that any country will retaliate against us. The prime minister believes that with its present economy Thailand can stand on its own legs. Therefore, if we think we have done the correct and beneficial thing for the public, we do not have to worry much. He thinks that superpowers with high potential should have considerations and views similar to Thailand.

Official Views Effects of Money Laundering Bill

BK2810113795 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Oct 95 p A 3

[Report by Parit Iamphongphaibun]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The proposed anti money-laundering legislation, if enacted by Parliament, would complement the existing legal measures against drug traffickers and enhance Thailand's position as a fledgling international financial centre, according to a legal expert.

Prof Dr Chaiyot Hemaratchata, chairman of the committee drafting the anti money-laundering bill, said some of the proposed law's opponents had misunderstood its potential, believing such legislation would be redundant as the country already has an assets forfeiture law.

"Although the proposed legislation and the assets forfeiture law both provide for seizure of suspected drug traffickers' assets, the anti money-laundering law will be different in that it would allow the state to confiscate the assets of suspected drug traffickers even if they are found not guilty in a trial," Chaiyot said.

Under the proposed anti money-laundering legislation, the state would be empowered to seize the assets of suspects unable to prove they had legally acquired the assets in question.

This would complement the current asset forfeiture law, under which the state is required to release the assets of suspected drug traffickers who are found not guilty in the courts of justice.

Chaiyot, also a lecturer at Chulalongkon University's Faculty of Law, was reacting to remarks made by Senate President Michai Ruchuphan who on Thursday said he saw no need for Parliament to enact the anti-money laundering bill as Thailand already had the assets forfeiture law.

"I believe I can make Khun Michai understand the difference between the assets forfeiture law and the proposed anti-money laundering bill. He is one of the most respected legal experts," Chaiyot said.

Chaiyot said the assets forfeiture law empowers law enforcement officials to investigate bank accounts and trace financial transactions of suspected drug traffickers on a case-by-case basis.

But, he said, the anti money-laundering bill, if promulgated, would require the bank to ask its customers to declare the source of any big cash deposit which exceeded a certain amount.

Chaiyot said his committee had yet to fix the amount, but it could be Bt500,000, 750,000 or 1 million.

Money-laundering is a process through which illegally-obtained money, such as that generated through drug trafficking, prostitution, contraband or illegal arms trading, is converted into legal currencies.

At present, the most common method to launder money is by simply depositing large amounts into a commercial bank. The anti-money laundering legislation would make it more difficult for drug traffickers and other illegal business operators to turn their ill- gotten gains into legal money.

Chaiyot said Thailand's aspiration to become a financial hub of the Southeast Asian region would receive a boost if such legislation was introduced. "We don't want Thailand to become a haven for drug traffickers. That would give the country a bad name," he said.

According to the Office of the Narcotics Control Board, ONCB, Secretary-General Pricha Champarat and Chaiyot will hold a press conference on Tuesday on the latest developments in the drafting of the anti money-laundering bill.

Cabinet Secretary-General Witsanu Khruangam said yesterday that he believed the drafting of such legislation would take some time as it was a sensitive issue with potentially wide-ranging effects on the country's economy.

"This bill, if enacted, would significantly affect the country's financial system. And we don't want the proposed law to have loopholes allowing some corrupt officials to abuse their authority or violate people's privacy." Witsanu said.

However, he said he believed the anti money-laundering bill would be drawn up in time to be presented to Parliament when it reopens in March next year.

Witsanu denied Thailand had been under United States pressure to enact an anti money-laundering law, saying the Thai government was doing only what is best for the country.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Thaksin Chinnawat said after a luncheon with former US secretary of state James Baker and US charge d'affaires Ralph Boyce that there is no problem with the Thai-US cooperation in anti-narcotics activities.

Boyce denied that US President Bill Clinton had specifically named Thailand as one of the countries on a US watch list for tolerating money-laundering by international drug traffickers, as reported in some Thai newspapers.

Banhan, Others on Cabinet Reshuffle Probability

BK2810121995 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Oct 95 pp 1, 3

[Unattributed Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There is no pressure for a cabinet reshuffle from the Chat Thai Party, nor will there be one, the prime minister said last night.

Banhan Sinlapa-acha, who was on a transit stopover in Switzerland on his return from New York, was adamant there would be no change.

"What do they want to reshuffle?" said the Chat Thai leader, who arrives in Bangkok early today. "There will be no reshuffle at all."

The rebuttal came just days after Uthai Thani MP Silapachai Nuipri declared 50 fellow Chat Thai MP's had signed a petition urging Mr Banhan to shake up his team.

The 50 want him to give party Secretary-General Sano Thianthong the Interior portfolio and make changes to the finance minister and PM's Office ministers posts.

Mr Banhan said he had checked the report and found it to be untrue. The cabinet will remain at this time because the government has important work to do particularly the ASEAN summit, the ASEAN- European Union meeting and HRH [her royal highness] the Princess Mother's funeral.

Mr Banhan said his cabinet was not set up to seek benefits but to work and he would act against those who do not get things done. "If I cannot stay, they cannot stay," he said.

The premier gave encouragement to Foreign Minister Kasemsamoson Kasemsi and Finance Minister Surakiat Sathianthai to keep on with their duties despite heavy criticism from MP's who objected to non- MP's in the Cabinet.

He was not impressed with reports of Thailand tolerating money laundering and drug trafficking and had asked the Foreign Ministry to contact Vice President Al Gore to seek grounds for the American charges against Thailand.

Referring to reports that Thailand was on a list of countries that could face economic sanctions, he said:

"Mr Gore assured us it will not happen again because we told them we will not take it any more since it damages our image greatly.

"These allegations with no supporting evidence make me sympathise with Narong Wongwan and Watthana Atsawahem," Mr Banhan said.

Mr Watthana and Mr Narong, the subjects of separate American drugs allegations, also figure in the pressure for a shakeup.

Mr Banhan's assurances about the domestic political were not reflected in comments by some members of his party.

Man Phatthanothai, who is close to Mr Watthana, said many people were calling for a reshuffle.

"Party administrators feel that there should be a reshuffle but it's just a matter of when," he said.

"Though the ministers have done nothing wrong, the people want a reshuffle and we cannot go against their wish."

A shake-up should be executed by March because the achievements of each minister would by then be clear.

"After six months in office things should be clear and we should reshuffle the cabinet without bringing in outsiders like Phalang Tham leader Thaksin Chinnawat suggested," Mr Man said.

The most likely targets of a reshuffle were the interior minister, finance minister and foreign minister.

"The finance minister post should be changed if, after six months, things are not going well. The foreign minister should behave like a minister rather than a civil servant and there should be a deputy foreign minister as well," Mr Man said.

As for the interior post being held by the premier, Mr Banhan must decide whether he will give it to Mr Sano, Mr Narong or Mr Watthana.

Chat Thai executive Burin Hiranburana said that since Mr Sano had asked MP's of his Wang Nam Yen faction to stop the move to sign a motion for a reshuffle, the MP's would oblige.

However, they still supported any decision Mr Sano made since he said that if he wanted a reshuffle he would ask Mr Banhan.

Mr Burin said the poor performance of the Finance Ministry was reflected in the condition of the stock market.

He criticised Mr Surakiat for saying the stock market must help itself because the government should not help it any more.

Government spokesman Somsak Pritsananantakun did not think there would be a reshuffle because the government should be allowed another three to five months.

"Demands are normal in politics but there must be a reason acceptable to everyone when the demands are for a reshuffle which is something that has to be discussed with leaders of seven coalition parties," Mr Somsak said.

Deputy Interior Minister Suchat Tancharoen, a leading figure of the Thoet Thai faction, did not think there would be a shake-up because those giving interviews about had no power, unlike Mr Banhan.

If there was to be a reshuffle, the party would have to do it in accordance to the quota system, he added.

Banhan: Not for 'Time Being'

BK2910154295 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 29 Oct 95 p 3

[Unattributed Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has ruled out a cabinet reshuffle for the time being, and is sure he will be able to keep a lid on the growing pressure for one from within Chat Thai.

"I was secretary-general of Chat Thai for nearly 20 years. Don't forget that, nong chai (younger brother)," Banhan Sinlapa-acha told one reporter yesterday.

Banhan, who was returning from his trip to the United Nations in New York, is known for his skill in keeping party members under control.

In the airport's VIP lounge, he loudly declared to senior party members and ministers that he did not want to talk about a cabinet reshuffle, according to Praphat Phothasuthon, deputy finance minister and a Suphan Buri MP.

And he was quoted by Deputy Secretary-General Chongchai Thiangtham as telling Uthai Thani MP Sinlapachai Nuipri to lay off trying to engineer one.

Sinlapachai has announced recently his intention to hand a letter to Banhan from some 50 MP's on his return from the United States.

The letter was to contain a demand that Banhan reshuffle the Cabinet and give Public Health Minister Sano Thianthong the Interior portfolio.

Sinlapachai was among MP's of the party welcoming Banhan at the airport, but he disappeared from the press room when the prime minister turned round to ask him to answer a reporter's question about a reshuffle.

Chongchai said that on her arrival Banhan's wife, Khunying Chaemsai told Sinlapachai to stop talking about a reshuffle.

Banhan telephoned Sinlapachai during a stopover in Zurich on Friday night to discuss the problem, Chongchai said.

Banhan told reporters that he and he alone had the authority to reshuffle the cabinet.

"The cabinet can be reshuffled when the time is right. I'm definitely not going to reshuffle the cabinet now. My priority is to help people affected by the floods," he said.

Reporters should wait until the New Year before asking him about changes to the cabinet line-up, he said.

Sinlapachai has claimed to have mustered the support of some 50 party MP's for Sano to be made interior minister.

Phalang Tham [PDP] leader Thaksin Chinnawat has called for a cabinet reshuffle in order to improve the coalition's image.

And deputy PDP leader Thawin Phraison has made it clear that he thinks Finance Minister Surakiat Sathianthai should be replaced by Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan, the Nam Thai leader.

Banhan brushed aside a recent analysis in the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW which pointed to widespread criticism of his administration.

He said his government had been doing its best; he would not waste time worrying about criticism in magazines.

Chongchai praised Banhan for his ability to put a damper on calls for a reshuffle, but said he believed the problem would be discussed at the October 31 party meeting.

Samak Sunthorawet, the Prachakon Thai leader and deputy premier, said that since the premier had made clear that there would be no reshuffle, the issue should be put to rest. He said:

"The reshuffle's like a wound that's healing. If you keep touching it, it'll just get itchier. If you start scratching it, it'll bleed. Just forget about it. Leave it alone. It'll heal by itself."

He accused the government's critics of being prejudiced against the Banhan administration.

The government would not have been criticised so severely if the Democrats had won the election.

"If that had been the case, there would not have been this continual nagging of the government for buying votes.

"We have had this problem because Chat Thai won 92 seats and the Democrats only got 86," Samak said.

Democrat Party Differs With Military Top Brass

BK2710113295 Bangkok MATICHON SUT SAPDA in Thai 26 Oct 95 p 9

[From the "Catching the Trend" Column: "Precarious Situation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Concern expressed over the "building up of the arms stockpile" by [former deputy foreign minister] Surin Phitsuwant has become a sensitive issue.

Especially since Surin claimed to represent [former Prime Minister] Chuan Likphai in making such a gesture.

It is a sensitive issue between the Democrat Party and the military top brass.

It is an undeniable fact that during the two years and seven months of the Democrat-led government, [former Defense Minister] General Wichit Sukmak, and [former Army Commander] General Wimon Wongwanit made tireless efforts to unite politicians under the banner of the Democrat Party with the military people.

Meanwhile, Major General Sanan Khachonprasat and Major General Manun Rupkhachon, two leading figures of the Democrat Party, were also actively serving as liaison officers for the party.

Nevertheless, many military leaders were not very happy with the party.

The navy leaders felt extremely embarrassed when their submarine purchase project was rejected by the Chuan government.

The Air Force's F-18 fighter purchase plan was also shelved by the Democrat-led government despite the fact that the aircraft was needed for the protection of the country's interests at sea.

However, following the appointment of General Chawalit Yongchaiyut as new defense minister, everything started moving ahead energetically.

Statements by Surin Phitsuwan and Suthat Ngoenmun against the armed forces' weapons purchase plans triggered a strong reaction not only from General Phat Akkhanibut, adviser to the defense minister, but also from other military leaders such as Supreme Commander General Wirot Saengsanit, Deputy Army Commander General Chettha Thanacharo, and Air Force Commander M.R. Siriphong Thongyai.

General Phat stated: "The weapons to be purchased are not meant for collection. We want the armed forces to become more efficient and strong."

"That is the talking style of politicians. Issues related to the armed forces are normally complicated. Only those in the armed forces know and can talk about such issues."

In other words, Surin has no right to talk about the armed forces.

Meanwhile, Supreme Commander General Wirot Saengsanit noted: "I deem it necessary for our armed forces to be prepared. Our neighboring countries even possess Mig-29 and Su-27 fighters. Thailand should have some weapons of equal standards to ensure national survival. Otherwise, other countries can intimidate us."

Military leaders still have the impression that the Democrat Party's stand regarding this issue remains unchanged.

In short, the Democrat Party will do its best to prevent the armed forces from purchasing new weapons.

Considering the public image of General Chawalit and Democrat politicians, the former is obviously winning greater popularity.

This is a precarious situation.

General Chawalit's stature became more prominent when he finalized two projects to buy F-18 fighters for the Air Force and submarines for the Navy which were earlier shelved by the Democrat Party.

Democrat politicians must produce specific reasons to substantiate their opposition to the purchase of new weapons for the armed forces.

Both Chuan Likphai and Surin Phitsuwan will have to clarify their party's stance in this regard.

It is also important to clarify issues for party members from the military wing such as Major General Sanan Khachonprasat and Major General Manun Rupkhachon to ensure unity of thought within the party.

'Biggest' Labor Unions Agree To Merge

BK3010054395 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Oct 95 p 1

[Unattributed Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The biggest labour organisations agreed to merge yesterday to inject life into a once-powerful movement in disarray since the disappearance of its leader after the 1991 coup.

The Labour Congress of Thailand [LCT] and the Thai Trade Union Congress [TTUC] will become the Labour Congress Union of Thailand and control close to 800 private sector unions.

The LCT controls 500 unions and the TTUC more than 200. Six other smaller labour organisations each have between two to 20 unions as members.

LCT President Suwit Hathong said after the meeting with TTUC leaders at the Mercure Hotel, Pratunam, that the merger will give private sector workers greater bargaining power for better wages and conditions.

A stronger labour organisation will also be immune from political interference, he said.

Both the LCT and TTUC had been active in the local labour and political scenes but had been left in disarray after Thanong Pho-an mysteriously disappeared after the National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] toppled the Chatchai Chunhawan government.

Mr Thanong's wife, close relatives and friends assumed he is dead.

The movement was further weakened when the now-defunct NPKC separated state enterprise and private unions, banning them from striking and providing support or advice for private unions in disputes.

Mr Suwit said he wanted to bring about a merger to project a unified image for the movement since the country now has eight labour organisations.

The merger would give the country a new body which could really serve the workers and effectively bargain with employers for the workers' interest.

The bigger organisation would provide workers with an added strength to prevent attempts by politicians to interfere in the labour movement, he said.

After several rounds of talks, Mr Suwit said the leaders of the two organisations reached agreement after having had a chance to work together as members in the PollWatch committee during the general election.

TTUC president Phanit Charoenphao approved the merger, and his vice president, Prathuang Saengsang, said the LCT and his organisation shared the view that workers had been disadvantaged in past negotiations because a divided movement had little bargaining power.

"Workers can have a better standard of living once their organisations come under one umbrella," Prathuang said.

The merger would also prevent some unions planning to desert the LCT and the TTUC from forming a new organisation to serve vested interests.

Under the agreement, the TTUC would nominate 20 candidates to the 40-man board of the LCT when it holds a general meeting next month to elect a 40-member board.

Instead of electing the full board, the LCT then would choose 20 of the members. The newly-elected members, together with the 20 proposed by TTUC, then would serve as the board of the new organisation.

The TTUC agreed to disband after this process to become a part of the new organisation. The new 40-man board would then jointly draw up a new set of regulations.

It was agreed that the LCT president would serve as the president of the merged movement with the TTUC president being his secretary- general, said Mr Prathuang.

Labour expert Nikhom Chantharawithun said the merger would be healthy for the labour movement after several unsuccessful attempts.

The two leaders had demonstrated knowledge and understanding about labour problems and he believed they could work together for the benefit of workers as a whole.

Thailand was expected to encounter more labour disputes as it moved towards the 21st century and the merger would give workers the power to protect their own interests.

He said the labour movement came into existence 38 years ago but had failed to establish itself.

"We have 900 labour unions nationwide but all have a combined membership of only 300,000 people, which is very small when compared to the fact that we now have a 10 million-strong workforce," Mr Nikhom said.

Central Bank Foresees Soft Landing for Economy

BK3010064295 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Oct 95 pp E1, E6

[Report by Thanong Khanthong]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Key economic indicators released in September 1995 have provided the Bank of Thailand [BOT] with a certain measure of relief that the economy will not end this year with too much of a bumpy landing.

There has been a danger of the economy overheating. The only way to deal with the twin pressures of inflation and the current account deficit, arising from overspending, is to slow growth. The central bank's target is 8.6 per cent. Earlier private estimates put this year's economic growth rate at nine per cent.

Due to the tight monetary policy and the easing in reimbursement in fiscal spending, inflation has been revised upward to 5.2-5.4 per cent. The Consumer Price Index [CPI] in September alone increased by 6.2 per cent, compared with 6.1 per cent in August and 5.8 per cent in July. This brought the 12-month moving average to 5.4 per cent in the first nine months of this year.

The CPI rise was attributed mainly to the surge in food prices, which was caused for the most part by natural disasters. As of Oct 18, a central bank survey found that some nine million rai of farming land had been destroyed by floods. Of this figure, rice accounted for 7.54 million rai, maize 300,000 rai, soybean 140,000 rai and other crops 750,000 rai.

Nevertheless, non-food prices rose at a slower rate, down to 4.9 per cent in September, compared with 5.0 per cent in August and 5.1 per cent in July. The tight monetary policy and selective credit controls introduced in the second half of this year have slowed credit growth and cooled off inflationary pressure.

Offshore lending under the BIBF [Bangkok International Banking Facilities] programme accounted for the significant rise in credit growth of 30 per cent in the first half of this year. Over the past two years, buoyed by the launch of the BIBF, the combined market share in foreign banks' lending has more than doubled from five to 13 per cent.

The Japanese BIBF banks, vying for full branch licences, have embarked on a lending spree to impress the host country. But they have been told to slow down their BIBF lendings because volume alone will not guarantee that they will get licences. The central bank hopes to bring overall 1995 credit growth to 24 per cent.

This means that over the remaining three months of the year, there will still be room for commercial banks to lend another [Thai baht] Bt250 billion, or Bt85 billion a month, so that the economy will expand in check at 8.6 per cent.

More worrisome is the current account, which is a measure of the ability of the economy to finance itself. The current account deficit widened to Bt257.8 billion in the first nine months of this year, compared with Bt153 billion in the same period of 1994. The central bank has projected the 1995 current account deficit to be Bt257 billion, equivalent to 6.3 per cent of GDP.

As far as the figure in the first nine months of this year is concerned, the current account deficit can easily top seven per cent of GDP. Officials have repeated their argument that capital goods make up a chunk of the import bills, so that the deficit of today will be turned into the surplus of tomorrow after plants and factories increase their capacities.

The deficit has been persistent, arousing concern over its direction. The sensitivity of this issue has led the central bank to refrain from taking part in premature speculation on the probable current account deficit level. But the conduct of its monetary policy has signalled that it is aware of the problem and is exercising all the resources in its power to bring the current account deficit down.

"The economy is slowing down. Inflation will subside in the final two months of this year. But there is pressure on current account stability, which has arisen from overspending," says Roengchai Marakanon, deputy governor of the central bank. "But we have already mtroduced several measures to tackle it, principally by slowing growth."

It took the Japanese, in spite of their economic miracle, several decades to develop a taste for Gucci and other luxurious goods. It is no surprise that export-led Japan is a current account surplus country.

But Thai consumers have proved to be natural spenders for big- ticket items. Switzerland now considers Thailand to be its third most important market for its timepieces. Thai consumers drink Scotch whisky like water. They also buy Mercedes-Benz cars, new or outmoded, with hardly a second thought. At a national level, this pattern of conspicuous consumption is worrisome.

Private consumption has been on a sharp increase. Buying of household electrical appliances grew 10 per cent, 17 per cent and 16 per cent in the first, second and third quarters of this year respectively. In the same period, imports of consumer goods also jumped 25.5 per cent, 19.8 per cent, and 17.5 per cent respectively. Car sales also surged 22.2 per cent, 16.3 per cent and 13.1 per cent respectively.

A committee, chaired by MR Chatumongkhon Sonakun, the permanent- secretary for finance, is working on a long-term solution to the current account deficit situation.

In the very short term, the authorities are hoping that the SEA [Southeast Asian] Games in Chiang Mai and the World Tech '95 in Khorat [Nakhon Ratchasima Province] will bring in some foreign exchange to reduce the pressure of the current account deficit.

Given the magnitude of the problem, Wichit Suphinit, the central bank governor, cannot afford to make interest rates lower. He has been asked by Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha to look into any possibility of lowering interest rates so that he can please his friends and allies.

Wichit is likely to tell the prime minister there is no room for any interest rate cut amid efforts to bring the economy in for a soft landing. Commercial banks' spread — the differential between deposit and lending rates — stood at 3.48 per cent in the first half of this year, compared with 3.57 per cent last year. So banks' spread is actually falling.

One can expect the tight monetary policy will be pursued at least until the middle of next year. Selective credit controls will continue to be imposed to curb hot money. Fiscal spending will have to slow down. Domestic savings must increase. And the current account deficit must be narrowed.

Once these policies are in place, the Thai economy, which has been on a recovery course over the past three years, will get back into shape. The International Monetary Fund has projected the growth of the world's economy at 4.1 per cent and Japan at 2.2 per cent. This favourable external condition should help the Thai economy return to a more stable path, with a growth rate of 8.4 per cent and an inflation rate at five per cent.

Vietnam

Minister on NAM Summit, Trade With U.S.

BK2710132995 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam has presented a report on Vietnam's recent diplomatic activities, including the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] and the relations between Vietnam and the United States. The report was delivered at the eighth session of the Ninth National Assembly. Following are excerpts from an interview granted by the foreign minister to our radio:

He initially stressed the results of the Nonaligned Summit and problems facing the movement. Minister Cam said:

[Begin Nguyen Manh Cam recording in Vietnamese fading into English translation] The 11th Nonaligned Summit adopted final documents reaffirming the movement's goals and principles. The summit also pointed out its indispensable role in the new stage of development since its previous summit in Jakarta. [end recording]

The Vietnamese foreign minister highlighted the concern of a number of countries over national independence, sovereignty, and national security.

Foreign Minister Cam said: The conference agreed that in coming years, the movement should focus on three major activities. The first is to consolidate unity within the movement to democratize international relations to defend independence and sovereignty and national characteristics, and to enhance the right for development of all nations. Secondly, the movement should contribute to the building of a new world economic order, law equitable to promoting North-South and South-South dialogues. And thirdly, it should promote renovation and democratization of the United Nations.

Addressing the summit, Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh laid stress on the necessity to follow the goals of peace, security, national independence, and sovereignty for all nations, and socioeconomic development.

Relating the U.S.-Vietnamese relations, Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam said:

[Begin Nguyen Manh Cam recording] Following the normalization of relations and the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Vietnam and the United States have agreed that the most important and the first thing to do is to normalize and promote trade and economic relations. Of course, it takes time for both sides to get to know each other better before negotiating the signing of a trade agreement to establish full trade and economic relations. Therefore, a second conference on the theme of normalizing economic relations and necessary follow-up steps in the U.S.-Vietnamese relationship were held by the U.S.-Vietnamese Trade Council and the Asian Council. [end recording]

Mr. Cam said that following the conference, a delegation of senior officials of various departments of the United States will visit Vietnam in December to start negotiations. It is predicted that the negotiations might meet difficulties due to U.S. laws and regulations and also the situation in Vietnam.

Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam said: Though there was not yet a trade agreement, recent economic and trade ties between the two countries have been stepped up, especially after the normalization of relations. Export value between the United States and Vietnam in the first nine months of this year reached $200 million, equal to that of 1994. The United States now ranks the sixth among foreign investors in Vietnam with some 50 projects valued at over $1 billion. However, for mutual benefit and for general development, the two sides should soon advance to a trade agreement on the principles of equality, mutual respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs. It is expected that once the agreement is signed, Vietnam and U.S. trade and economic relations will rapidly develop.

'Regrets' Expressed Over French Nuclear Test

BK3010111595 Hong Kong AFP in English 0911 GMT 30 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] HANOI, Oct 30 (AFP) — Vietnam on Monday expressed "regret" over the third nuclear test in two months carried out by France in the South Pacific.

"We have clearly stated our concern on many occasions and it is highly regrettable that the nuclear tests are still being carried out," a Foreign Ministry spokesman told AFP, reacting to Friday's test in the Mururoa Atoll.

Vietnam once again expressed its desire that all countries cease testing so as to facilitate the signing of a comprehensive test ban treaty in 1996, the spokesman said.

Do Muoi Receives Japanese Journalists

BK2710155095 Hanoi VNA in English 1428 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA Oct.27 — General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Do Muoi today received Mr. Takuhito Tsuruta, president of the daily NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN (Nikkei) of Japan and his party, who are now on a visit to Vietnam.

Mr. T. Tsuruta expressed his sentiment as well as Nikkei staff's attention to Vietnam, and acclaimed Vietnam's achievements in its current renovation process.

General Secretary Do Muoi, for his part, briefed the Japanese mediamen of Vietnam's socio-economic progress and the implementation of the party and state's renovation ane open-door foreign policies. The Vietnamese party leader welcomed development steps of the Vietnam-Japan relations and the ongoing investment of Japanese businessmen in Vietnam. He wished that the economic, scientific and technological cooperation and the cultural exchange between the two countries would be further expanded in accordance with capabilities and potentials of each country.

National Assembly Issues Communique No. 21

BK2710161595 Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 27 Oct 95

[Communique No.21 issued by Vietnamese National Assembly in Hanoi on 27 October]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, 27 October, the National Assembly continued in session at the conference hall to hear the following:

1. Under the direction of National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh, the National Assembly heard Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, on behalf of the government, present certain issues — of concern to the deputies — relating to the implementation of the tasks for 1995 and the orientations and tasks for 1996. These issues also cover measures to carry out socioeconomic development in various key economic zones, of increasing revenues and economizing on spending, overseeing the practice of thrift, the fight against corruption and smuggling, actions taken against violations of the regulations on the protection of river dikes, reasons for a sudden change in market prices applicable to certain items of goods such as food grain and cement, reasons for and actions taken against the disaster created by yellow snails [harmful to rice fields].

2. Under the direction of National Assembly Vice Chairman Nguyen Ha Phan, the National Assembly held discussions to pass various draft laws on amendments and supplements to a number of articles of the law on special consumption tax, and the law on amendments and supplements to a number of articles of the law on business tax.

The National Assembly heard the following:

— Comrade Do Que Luong, deputy governor of the State Bank, provides an explanation on some issues concerning business tax applicable to the banking sector.

— Comrade Ho Te, on behalf of the law drafting committee, the appraisal committee, and the secretariat of the session, briefed on how the views of the deputies had been taken into account in rectifying various draft laws on amendments and supplements to a number of articles of the law on special consumption tax, and the draft law on the amendments and supplements to a number of articles of the law on business tax.

After hearing Comrade Ly Tai Luan, on behalf of the secretariat, read the full text of the draft law on amendments and supplements to a number of articles of the law on special consumption tax, and the law on amendments and supplements to a number of articles of the law on business tax, the deputies expressed their views on these draft laws.

Five deputies aired their views on the draft law on amendments and supplements to a number of articles of the law on special consumption tax: Pham Quang Du of Ho Chi Minh City, Vu Dinh Cu of Hanoi, Nguyen Ngoc Tran of An Giang, Vu Thi Ngoc Dau of Thai Binh, and Truong Thi Khue of Quang Tri.

Twenty-five deputies expressed their views on the draft law on amendments and supplements to a number of articles of the law on business tax: Vinh Tho of Vinh Phu; Chu Pham Ngoc Son, Dong Hoang Hai, and Nguyen Minh Thanh of Ho Chi Minh City; Nguyen Khuong of Binh Thuan; Hoang Thi Anh Nguyet, Le Viet Duoc, and Lu Van Viet of Thanh Hoa; Phan Thu of Ha Tay; Do Quoc Hung and Pham Thi Son of Ba Ria-Vung Tau; Mai Thuc Lan, Huynh Nghia, and Hoang Minh Thang of Quang Nam-Danang; Tran Thi Le Thu of Binh Dinh; Nguyen Trong Nhan of Nam Ha; Cao Minh Chau of Hanoi; Nguyen Thi No of Khanh Hoa; Nguyen Phu Cuong of Lang Son; Tran Quoc Thai of Ha Tinh; Truong Minh Thang of Minh Hai; Co Hoa Van of Lao Cai; Ha Dang of Phu Yen; Bui Van Hoanh of Can Tho; and Lo Thi Luyen of Son La.

By a majority vote, the National Assembly voted to pass the aforementioned draft laws.

3. Under the direction of National Assembly Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu, the National Assembly continued to pass the draft Civil Code. Minister of Justice Nguyen Dinh Loc, on behalf of the team that had conducted studies for the rectification of the draft Civil Code, briefed on how the draft Civil Code had been revised in accordance with suggestions made by the deputies.

Seventeen deputies aired their views, suggesting adding some points and amending some phrases and syntaxes in the draft Civil Code. These deputies are: Pham Hung of Hai Hung; Pham Phu, Tran Du Lich, Chu Pham Ngoc Son, and Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong of Ho Chi Minh City; Huu Tho of Vinh Phu; Trinh Hong Suong of Ha Tinh; Nguyen Ngoc Tran of An Giang; Trieu Thi Nhay of Yen Bai; Ha Thi Thu Suong of Quang Nam-Danang; Tran Thi Thanh Thanh of Ha Tay; Tang Van Luy of Ha Bac; Do Van An of Son La; Dam Van Nguy of Cao Bang; Ha Quang Du of Tuyen Quang; Y Ngong Niet Dam of Dac Lac; and Ha Manh Tri of Thai Binh.

By a majority vote, the National Assembly passed Part III on Civil Obligations and Civil Contracts; Part IV on the Right to Inherit Property; and Part V on Regulations Governing the Transfer of the Right to Land Use.

The National Assembly will continue in session at the conference hall on 28 October 1995.

National Assembly 27 Oct Proceedings Reported

BK2710160195 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 27 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning the National Assembly continued its session at the conference hall. In the first hours of the morning session, the deputies heard Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet present some issues of concern to the deputies. First, the prime minister thanked the deputies for contributing their views about the government report on the implementation of socioeconomic tasks for 1995 and the orientations for the implementation of the socioeconomic tasks for 1996. The report provides an assessment of achievements, difficulties, and weaknesses, and brings up the government's suggestions and operating measures. Next, the prime minister presented certain issues calling for a high consensus in the period ahead. These issues are: development of relations between key economic zones, the state budget, fighting corruption and smuggling, and finally, taking action against a number of incidents of concern to the deputies. In particular there are actions taken against violations of the law on dike protection in Hanoi; against violations in cement price increases that caused serious consequences; against a sudden increase in food prices; and against an incident involving yellow snails [harmful to rice fields].

Also this morning, Mr. Do Que Luong, deputy governor of the State Bank, presented some issues on business tax applicable to banks; Finance Minister Ho Te reported on the solicitation of deputies' views on the amendment and supplement to the law on business tax, the law on special consumption tax, and the import tariff chart. Mr. Ly Tai Luan, chairman of the National Assembly's Economic and Budget Committee, read the draft law on the amendment and supplement to a number of articles of the law on business tax, the law on special consumption tax, and the import tariff chart.

Afterward, with a majority vote, the National Assembly passed these draft laws.

In the afternoon, the National Assembly continued to pass various parts of the Civil Code, including Part III on Civil Obligations and Civil Contracts; Part IV on the Right To Inherit Property; and Part V on Stipulations About the Transfer of the Right to Land Use.

Tomorrow, the National Assembly will continue in session at the conference hall.

South Pacific Nations Condemn French Test

BK2810132595 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1100 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There has been widespread international condemnation of today's French nuclear test in the South Pacific. Authorities in the French Polynesian capital, Papeete, increased security fearing an outbreak of violent protest. South Pacific correspondent Erina Reddan reports Polynesia's pro-independence groups have condemned the blast at Mururoa Atoll, the third in two months.

[Begin recording] [Reddan] The underground test measured 5.5 on the Richter Scale. At more than four times the strength of the Hiroshima bomb, the nuclear test has been widely condemned. Greenpeace has called it outrageous while the Tavini Independence Party says it felt great sadness and will continue its antinuclear protesting. It is expecting dozens of protesters to visit the French territory next week to join a march. However, antinuclear leader (Gabriel Chechirahi) says his group, (?Pipitow), has abandoned street protest.

[Chechirahi] It is pretty hard to explain how our (?ammunition) is very strong and clear that we have no right to have a way. [as heard]

[Reddan] More than 1,000 French gendarme have been on standby in Papeete since riot broke out in protest against the first nuclear explosion on 6 September. [end recording]

Countries around the Pacific expressed outrage at the latest test. Australia's prime minister, Paul Keating, said it made a mockery of the French Government's recent announcement that it would sign the protocols of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty.

New Zealand prime minister, Jim Bolger, says continued testing in the Pacific is an affront to all Pacific rim countries and the wider international community.

The United States says it regrets the testing and urges France to join a global moratorium on testing leading to the signing of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in 1996.

Japan protested against the move while South Korea expressed deep regret and urged Paris to immediately halt the experiments.

The South Pacific Forum representing 16 of the nations closest to the test site warned it would foster opposition against tests until they were abandoned.

Australia

Keating, Politicians Condemn French Nuclear Test

BK2810092095 Hong Kong AFP in English 0321 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SYDNEY, Oct 28 (AFP) — Australian political leaders combined in a rare show of unity Saturday to condemn France's third nuclear test and a trade union protested by grounding an Air France flight for a second day.

As global outrage mounted again, France's ambassador to Australia, Dominque Girard, was summoned to Parliament House, Canberra, for the third time to hear Australia's formal protest.

Prime Minister Paul Keating said France continued "to seriously damage its international reputation by its actions in the face of world opinion."

Conservative opposition leader John Howard described the test as a "dismaying and disgusting" action and his foreign affairs spokesman Alexander Downer said it was "a further insult to the people of the South Pacific."

Greenpeace called on Keating to use the upcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in New Zealand to step up pressure on France, saying Australia should lead Commonwealth nations in "the strongest possible condemnation."

An Air France 747-400 stranded here since Friday by a 24-hour union ban will remain grounded for another 24 hours after the Transport Workers Union (TWU) extended its ban in retaliation for the third test.

Flight 143, due to leave for Paris, via Singapore, at 3:20 p.m. (0520 gmt) on Friday was to have been the last scheduled flight from here by Air France, which has axed its Australian operations as an economy measure.

Most of the 300 passengers were transferred to a Qantas flight connecting in Tokyo with an Air France jet to Paris, but 81 bound for Singapore and Jakarta remained in Sydney overnight and may be detained another 24 hours.

TWU president Steve Hutchins said the flight would remain here for at least another 24 hours and that he neither knew — nor cared — when it would be allowed to leave.

The French Embassy has condemned the ban, calling it a meaningless and futile action that would inconvenience "passengers of all ages, virtually holding them hostage by imposing a forced stop on them".

"The image of Australia will only suffer from actions of this kind, which hurt innocent people, cast doubt on the reliability of Australia as a commercial partner," it said in a statement.

Keating said the latest test flew in the face of France's announcement that it would sign the Protocols of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty and "further brings into question the sincerity of France's commitment to the security of the region and its environment.

French Envoy: Reaction 'Extreme'

LD2810121095 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1000 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] There has been widespread international condemnation of today's French nuclear test in the South Pacific. Authorities in the French Polynesian capital Papeete increased security fearing an outbreak of violent protest. South Pacific correspondent, Erina Reddan, reports Polynesia's pro- independence groups condemned what was the third blast in the latest series of experiments.

[Reddan] The underground test measured 5.5 on the Richter scale. At more than four times the strength of the Hiroshima bomb the nuclear test has been widely condemned. Green Peace has called it outrageous while the Tavini Independence Party [headed by Oscar Temaru] says it feels great sadness and will continue its antinuclear protesting. It is expecting dozens of protestors to visit the French territory next week to join a march. However, antinuclear leader, Gabriel Tetiarahi, says his group, Hiti Tau has abandoned street protests.

[Begin Tetiarahi recording] It is pretty hard to explain how our humiliation is very strong and it is clear that we have no right to have a voice. [end recording]

[Reddan] More than 1,000 French gendarmes have been on standby in Papeete since riots broke out in protest against the first nuclear explosion on 6 September.

[Announcer] The Australian Government immediately condemned the test, but the French ambassador to Canberra reiterated his government's opinion that Australia's reaction is extreme. Prime Minister Paul Keating said the test made a mockery of the French Government's recent announcement that it will sign the protocol of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty. He said, France is continuing to seriously damage its international reputation and brings into question the sincerity of France's commitment to the region's security and environment. Opposition leader John Howard described the test as disgusting and his foreign affairs spokesman, Alexander Downer, said it was a further insult to the people of the South Pacific. The French ambassador, Dominique Girard, was summoned to the Foreign Affairs Department where Acting Foreign Minister, Bob McMullen, expressed Australia's displeasure. Senator McMullen says he rejected the ambassador's charge that Australia's response had been too strong.

[Begin McMullen recording] But we do see it as recognition of the leadership role which the Australian Government has played and which we will continue to play until these tests are concluded, until the facilities at Mururoa and Fangataufa are closed and until it is clear that this threat to the environmental and health concerns of our region has concluded. [end recording]

[Announcer] New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger says continued testing in the Pacific is an affront to all Pacific Rim countries and the wider international community. [passage omitted]

McMullan Blames Paris for Ban on French Flights

BK2810132895 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 1100 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Acting Foreign Minister Bob McMullan says the actions of the Transport Workers' Union in banning the servicing of an Air France flight in Sydney could hurt Australia's international reputation.

Senator McMullan was speaking after calling in the French ambassador to express Australia's continued opposition to nuclear testing at Mururoa Atoll. In reply, the ambassador expressed France's outrage at the Union's action in placing a 24-hour ban on the airliner bound from New Caledonia to France. Following the announcement of France's third nuclear test in the current series, the Union extended the ban for further 24 hours. Sen. McMullan says he agrees the people caught up in the antinuclear protest by the Union are the wrong target.

[Begin McMullan recording] While we know they may be, in effect, [word indistinct] vehemently opposed to the policy of the French Government and they are being disadvantaged in a haphazard manner, which can do no good and can only weaken our position internationally by (?utterings) and to be taking action which isn't directed against the Government of France but against innocent citizens of the range of countries, that Australia is a democracy, and I made it very clear to you that the cause of this ban is the provocative action of the French Government. [end recording]

French Polynesia

Activists in Tahiti Protest French Nuclear Test

BK2810092295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0255 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Papeete, Oct 28 (AFP) — Several anti-nuclear protesters led by pro-independence

Te Tahiti Tiama Party President Charlie Ching held a demonstration Friday (Saturday west of the international dateline) after France exploded a third nuclear device in French Polynesia.

The test took place at 2200 GMT Friday and had an explosive power equivalent to less than 60 kilotonnes, or 60,000 tonnes of conventional high explosives.

About 15 Tahitian activists gathered in front of the French high commissioner's office, sporting banners calling for an end to testing and for returning the French territories in the South Pacific to the Polynesians. The demonstrators later dispersed peacefully.

Meanwhile, Oscar Temaru, the leader of another pro-independence party, Tavini Huiraatira, said the group will keep up its demonstrations against nuclear tests.

Temaru appealed to French President Jacques Chirac to "reflect again on the necessity for continuing this campaign, which puts the Polynesian people, the most peaceful in the world, in the position of being a party to the making of a terrifying weapon."

This third test was "sad for the world, sad for our French friends and sad for our Polynesian family."

France carried out a first test, with a yield of about 20 kilotonnes, at Mururoa on September 5.

The second blast, much more powerful at about 110 kilotonnes, was carried out under the nearby atoll of Fangataufa on October 2.

The Tahitian capital, Papeete, was preoccupied with preparations for the All Saints festivities but with an unusually large presence of police around public buildings and the airport.

New Zealand

Bolger: Third French Test Affront to Nations

BK2810091895 Hong Kong AFP in English
0228 GMT 28 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WELLINGTON, Oct 28 (AFP) — New Zealand will continue to use every opportunity to seek an end to nuclear testing, Prime Minister Jim Bolger said Saturday in response to the latest French test in the South Pacific.

"The government has already made it clear to France that continued testing in the Pacific is an affront to all Pacific Rim countries, and the wider international community," Bolger said in a statement.

"Both of (French) President (Jacques) Chirac's predecessors opposed continued testing. So too does a large majority of the French public. Virtually all European governments have protested at France's continued testing. Asian and Pacific governments have called for its immediate halt. What more does France need to persuade it to stop this unacceptable action?" he said.

"New Zealand will continue to use every opportunity to seek an end to testing. We have asked for the issue to be discussed at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and New Zealand is also one of the countries working to achieve a strong United Nations resolution against testing at the current UN General Assembly in New York."

Bolger said the French Ambassador, Jacques Le Blanc, would again be called to Parliament Building here to receive from Foreign Minister Don McKinnon a "strong formal protest".

"It is folly for France to continue these tests. A South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone and a comprehensive Test Ban Treaty are now in prospect. France should show the leadership of which she is capable and stop the tests now. I urge France to do so," he said.

The statement quoted Bolger as saying, "France has again condemned itself internationally."

The statement did not say when the French ambassador would be called in to receive the protest but the move was not expected until Monday.

The leader of the opposition Labour Party, Helen Clark, said in an interview with the New Zealand Press Association she was "utterly disgusted" by France's third nuclear test.

"I think at this point the government should most certainly be stating publicly that neither it nor its agencies will be buying French products until this testing has concluded," she said.

The New Zealand Government has previously refused to endorse calls for a boycott of French goods, saying its argument is against the French government and not the French people.

Bolger met Chirac last week in New York when the two leaders were attending the UN's 50th anniversary celebrations.

After the meeting, which Bolger described at the time as an "informal chat" he said Chirac was "not happy at the level of New Zealand's protests" against the test programme.

Bolger said then that there were "fundamental differences" between the two governments over nuclear testing and he expected the issue to be raised at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Auckland next month.

During his speech to the UN General Assembly, Bolger condemned France and China for continuing to test nuclear weapons.

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